

No 61.128

Monopoly bar on bank bids

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is reported to have rejected both of the £500m competing bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland, a confidential report still in the hands of Mr John Biffen, Trade Secretary, is believed to have ruled that a merger with either the Standard Chartered Bank or the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation would be against the public interest. Mr Biffen still has powers to overrule the commission's report, which will be published officially this week.

No easy answer, Whitelaw says

Mr William Whitelaw has criticized Conservative suggestions for easy solutions on law and order. Complex crime could not be solved by slogans about capital and corporal punishment, he said. He also promised to produce an independent element into the investigation of serious complaints against police. Page 3

Pit loyalty may swing vote

Opinions expressed at National Union of Mineworkers' branch meetings in the Durham and Yorkshire areas discuss a reluctance to strike over the 24 per cent pay claim. But loyalty to the union could still produce the 55 per cent national majority required for strike action. Page 3

Dr Runcie ends visit to China

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, has left China after a three-day visit. Before flying to Hong Kong, where he will rest before visiting Sri Lanka and returning home, he emphasized the church's role in building international bridges. Page 5

Tatchell test for peace pact

The review of the selection of Mr Peter Tatchell as prospective Labour candidate at Southwark, Bermondsey will test today the new peace agreement between the party and trade unions reached at Bishop's Stortford. Page 2

Power struggle in Albania

Mr Enver Hoxha, the Albanian leader, who is reported to be embroiled in a fierce power struggle after the alleged suicide of Mr Mehmet Shehu, his Prime Minister. Reports from Tirana claim that Mr Shehu was shot dead and President Hoxha injured during a political showdown. Page 5

Dearer canned beer likely

Prices of canned beer sold through supermarkets are expected to rise next month. Trade indications are that the increase will be at least 2p on a large can. Page 11

World Cup win

New Zealand qualified for the last of the 24 places in the World Cup football finals in Spain by beating China 2-1 in their Asia-Oceania play-off in Singapore. They will play in the final stages of the tournament for the first time. Page 14

Air crash fear

Tan Sri Chazali Shafie, the Malaysian Foreign Minister, is feared dead after his aircraft, which was also carrying two aides, crashed near Kuala Lumpur soon after leaving an air force base. Page 4

Nuclear doubt

The £1,300m nuclear power station under construction at Torness, East Lothian, is not needed, according to a former Commons select committee adviser. Page 11

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Blizzards put Welsh food supplies in danger

By Tim Jones, Craig Seton and Frances Gibb

As freezing temperatures gripped Britain again last night, Wales was almost isolated by snow and ice and the Welsh Office was urged to order the use of troops and tracked Army vehicles to help deliver supplies. The South-west was also badly affected, with many roads blocked. A new record low temperature in England was claimed at Newport, Shropshire, where -26.1°C was recorded, and the Weather Centre said a temperature of -27.2°C was recorded at Braemar in Scotland on Saturday night, equalling the lowest recorded in Britain, also at Braemar on February 11, 1895. The freezing temperatures served further to compact huge drifts blown across Welsh roads in 37 hours of continuous snow. The snow, the worst in memory in Wales, caused the collapse of some buildings, isolated cities and towns and small communities and towns and stranded thousands of people in mid-journey. As temperatures dropped, snow ploughs and ice-clearing mountain rescue teams worked to make people trapped on the M4 safe. Hundreds of schools in Wales will be closed for days and people have been warned that bread, milk and other supplies will not be available. The police in Cornwall, Devon, Avon and Somerset reported some improvement in driving conditions during the day but many roads remained treacherous. Although rail services into the South-west improved, many local bus services failed to run for a second day. Farmers, however, were reported to have fared well because the bad weather was expected and many, especially those in isolated areas of the moors, took precautions to safeguard their stock and to get in extra feed. But dairy farmers are expected to have difficulty in getting their supplies to the Milk Marketing Board. The M4, which had been blocked by snow and abandoned vehicles was finally reopened. At one point police rolled giant snowballs into the snowdrifts to clear the road. Ignored "closed" signs at the entrance to the motorway near Bristol.

Train passengers stranded

From the air Wales resembled a pretty picture postcard but at ground level the snow lost its romance. Farmers working to exhaustion feared that stock losses would be enormous, with thousands of sheep dying from hunger or exposure. RAF helicopters from Brandy Dyked and Valley in Anglesey worked throughout the day to take pregnant women and sick people to hospitals. Four other helicopters took electricity board engineers to South Pembrokeshire, where 10,000 people have been without supplies since Thursday.

One woman, Mrs Christine Smith, who was carried on a stretcher two miles through snowdrifts from her isolated cottage to a waiting helicopter gave birth to twins at Macynallt Hospital. Others were not so lucky. One farmer near Bala who went to care for his flock was found dead by neighbours three hours after he should have returned home. A 27-hour ordeal for passengers stranded on a train near Tynwy, Gwynedd, ended on Saturday morning when a helicopter beaten back on its first attempt, landed in a field nearby to fly them to warmth and safety.

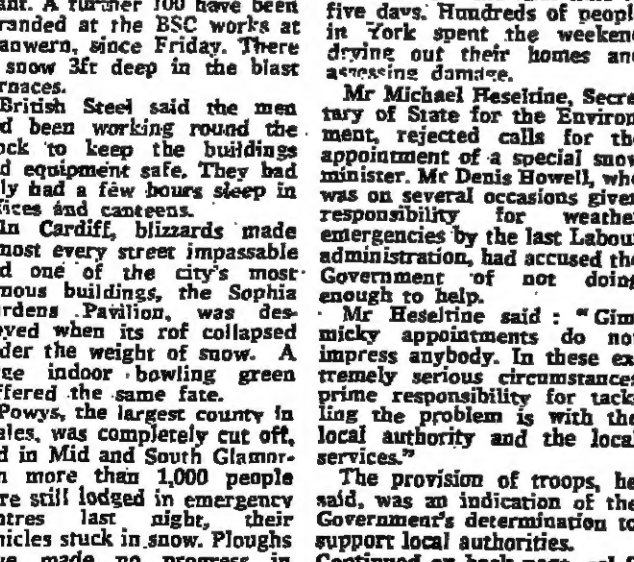
500 men trapped in steel works

Fire hundred men were still trapped last night at the Port Talbot steelworks, where they have been since Thursday when drifting snow cut off the plant. A further 100 have been stranded at the BSC works at Llanwern, since Friday. There is snow 3ft deep in the blast furnaces. Steel said the men had been working round the clock to keep the buildings and equipment safe. They had only had a few hours sleep in offices and canteens. In Cardiff, blizzards made almost every street impassable and one of the city's most famous buildings, the Sophia Gardens Pavilion, was destroyed when its roof collapsed under the weight of snow. A large indoor bowling green suffered the same fate. Powys, the largest county in Wales, was completely cut off, and in Mid and South Glamorgan more than 1,000 people were still lodged in emergency centres in snow. Ploughs and vehicles stuck in snow. Ploughs have made no progress in

Floods recede in the North

The RAC said: "Something like 200,000 miles of roads and motorways are extremely treacherous, with dozens of main roads blocked in places or only just passable. Some parts of South Wales and the West Country can only be described as a 'white hell'. Drivers were advised not to venture out unless their journeys were essential. Two schoolboys who ran away from home Carl Taylor, aged 15, and Alan Wells, aged 16, turned up at Wincfield, Berkshire, 10 miles from their homes in Windsor. They were said to be exhausted after existing on tinned spaghetti and tea for three days in a tent and a hay loft. The lower temperatures brought some relief to the flooded North, where the Ouse at York was back within its banks for the first time in five days. Hundreds of people in York spent the weekend drying out their homes and assessing damage. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, rejected calls for the appointment of a special snow minister. Mr Denis Howell, who was on several occasions given responsibility for weather emergencies by the last Labour administration, had accused the Government of not doing enough to help. Mr Heseltine said: "Gimmicky appointments do not impress anybody. In these extremely serious circumstances prime responsibility lies with the local authority and the local services." The provision of troops, he said, was an indication of the Government's determination to support local authorities. Continued on back page, col 6

Joys of the road: Slew and abandoned lorries straddling the snow-covered M4 near Cardiff yesterday.



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Hillhead Liberals make way for Jenkins

By Our Political Staff

Mr Roy Jenkins, the former Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, and now one of the joint leaders of the Social Democratic Party is to stand for the Liberal Alliance at the Hillhead, Glasgow, by-election. An official announcement will be made tonight. The agreement between the two parties reached in Scotland on Saturday, was endorsed last night when Mr Charles Brodie, the Liberal prospective candidate for the constituency, and Mr Ken Wardrop, his constituency party chairman, met Mr Jenkins for two hours in his London home to discuss arrangements for the joint campaign. There was no formal confirmation after the meeting but the two Scots came away from the meeting smiling and promising that a full statement would be made today after they had returned back to the constituency Liberal party. Mr Brodie, aged 37, a computer firm executive, had already indicated that he was prepared to stand down to make way for Mr Jenkins if

that offered the best prospect for the alliance winning the seat from the Conservatives. A meeting of the Hillhead Liberals on Saturday was attended by Mr Russell Johnston, MP for Inverclyde, and leader of the Scottish Liberals. Glasgow's Social Democrats had already made it abundantly plain that they wanted Mr Jenkins to stand for the alliance. He narrowly lost when he stood for the Labour-held seat at Warrington last year, but the Liberal and SDP party managers believe he has an excellent chance of winning Hillhead, where the late Sir Thomas Galbraith had a majority of 2,002 at the general election. Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, left London on Saturday, where he is to give a lecture, then take a short holiday. Referring to the recent breakdown of negotiations between the Liberals and Social Democrats about the division of seats at the next general election, Mr Steel said: "I don't think you can carry out on a national basis, a construction of parties without having difficulties. But I think we have reached a closer understanding now."

Mr Jenkins told by Mr Gordon Clough on Radio 4's The World This Weekend that many people felt they had been misled by Conservative promises of tax cuts. She blamed the rising price of oil for a world recession which no one could have predicted and said: "It is very ironic that the people who are urging me to put up public spending are the same who are urging me to put down taxation. That is just plain dishonesty."

When people said they wanted more public spending, she always asked them where they would cut to make room for it, or would they pay more tax? "Penny are saving to me, 'Mrs T' we are paying enough in direct taxation, enough in indirect taxes, and enough in rates." Yes, everyone would like more to be spent, but we want more in our pockets too," the Prime Minister said. She confessed to being not merely angry but dismayed when people used democracy as a vehicle for saying "Look, you vote for me and I will see that you get more and someone else will pay."

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Thatcher wants to be even tougher

By George Clark, Political Staff

The Prime Minister admitted by implication yesterday that she is being forced to modify her economic policy because she fears a Conservative backlash rebellion and possible defeat in the Commons. That was not how she put it, in a BBC radio interview, but it was the only interpretation that could be placed on Mrs Thatcher's remarks. She lauded the efforts of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in West Germany. "He is even tougher on inflation than I am. I would like to be tougher," she said. "He is even tougher on public spending cuts than I am. I would like to be tougher."

While Mrs Thatcher was speaking, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the other Treasury ministers met their advisers at a secret rendezvous in the House of Commons to decide the general lines of budgetary policy for 1982-83. One of the questions they had to consider was whether it will be possible to make any tax concessions in the Spring Budget. Their verdict will be discussed by the Cabinet later this month or early in February.

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New Church initiative to roll back martial law

Polish regime eases censorship to improve its image abroad

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 10

The Polish military authorities have decided to improve their image in the West by lifting censorship restrictions on foreign correspondents, restoring some domestic telephone links and giving telex lines back to some Western embassies.

The move comes at the start of a difficult and complicated week for the ruling Military Council and the Communist Party. Party sources expect a Central Committee meeting within the next few days to determine some policy directions and to decide the scope of the current purge of officials. Two first secretaries have been ousted in the past few days—Mr Tadeusz Fiszbach of Gdansk, who was toppled for having given too much ground to Solidarity, and Mr Andrzej Zabinski of Katowice, a hard-liner whose policy of confrontation with Solidarity has undermined party support.

Over the past seven days the Church has been challenging the Military Council with increasing outspokenness, and since a meeting this week-end of Archbishop Jozef Glemp with General Jaruzelski, Church sources believe that the conditions of internecine officialdom will start to improve. Last week Archbishop Glemp gave a stirring sermon in St John's Cathedral in Warsaw in which his description of a visit to a women's internment centre moved many of the congregation to tears and marked a new Church initiative to roll back martial law.

It is difficult to assess whether the lifting of censorship fits into a wider trend of liberalisation—the long awaited thaw after a month of rough military rule that resulted in at least eight deaths (official estimate) and the intervening without trial of thousands.

There are some tell-tale signs supporting the "thaw" thesis. Two tank divisions have withdrawn from northern and southern suburbs of the capital; soldiers are increasingly carrying their rifles on their backs rather than at the ready; scheduled overseas flights (though only with Lot, the state carrier) are expected to resume next week; and the black marketers and prostitutes are returning to the foyers of hotels, having disappeared on the night that martial law was declared.

However, it is still impossible to telephone from one city to another or visit relatives in other parts of the country without special permission. The roadblocks are still manned in the capital and the 14 to 5 curfew persists. Most of the relaxation on communications and censorship is aimed at reassuring the ground lost in foreign policy terms over the past few weeks of military rule. In the absence of uncensored

news from Poland, rumours have filled the vacuum, projecting an unfavourable image largely shaped by travellers' reports of internment conditions.

The evidence suggests that the Military Council was taken by surprise by the strength of the Western response to the military takeover and the internment. Progress poured in over violation of human rights and diplomatic were particularly incensed by breaches of the Vienna Convention which guarantees communications between embassies and their capitals.

What impact the move will have on foreign policy is difficult to gauge. The main obstacle to establishing normal working relations with Western countries was the lack of an economic crisis—the continuing internment of political critics. The government spokesman, Mr Jerzy Urban, said on Saturday that only one of the internees was likely to face trial, a former Solidarity leader, Mr Marian Jurczyk. Internment would end when martial law was lifted, he said. However, this is largely a question of definition of terms. If an internee is released after signing a pledge to "stop preceding anti-social activities" and then takes part in Solidarity activities, he could be re-arrested, charged and tried. Formerly he would no longer be an internee.

Still, the official picture of events is now more and more salving with the facts—the situation is indeed calm.

Fears for the future

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Jan 10

With the arrival here today of Mr Jozef Czerwinski, the Polish Foreign Minister, Soviet leaders tomorrow begin the first publicly announced top level talks with the Polish Government since the imposition of martial law a month ago. The talks coincide with the Nato meeting in Brussels, and follow the announcement in Warsaw this weekend that some of the martial law restrictions are to be eased. Both East and West are taking stock of the Polish situation and of relations with each other in the light of the crisis.

For the Russians, martial law, though putting a welcome and abrupt end to the slide into political chaos and "counter-revolution" has brought a double crisis: it has worsened the tense relations with the United States while producing an unexpected sharp response from Western Europe. And it has raised fundamental questions about the nature of communist power and the future of the Soviet Union's largest ally in the Warsaw Pact.

In the short term, the American sanctions and the leadership of the careful Soviet attempts to woo Western Europe are the most immediate issues. The Russians have clearly been stung by the fierce condemnation by the European Community, and in spite of

early transatlantic disagreements, fear the Polish crisis will strengthen the Western alliance and rally the more dovish members to the American view.

The Russians know they may have to pay a high price for General Jaruzelski's draconian measures: the vital gas pipeline to West Germany may have to be delayed or renegotiated; the burden of supporting Poland economically will increase as Western aid is halted or diverted; Western peace movements on which the Russians were counting to hold up NATO's rearmament plans have suffered a setback; the split with Western communist parties has deepened as the Italian party and other Eurocommunists have gone on the offensive against President Reagan.

Moscow does not see a threat to its vital interests that patience and restraint will not remove. American sanctions were half expected and are seen as little more than symbolic. The one serious measure, a new grain embargo, is not included.

The Geneva arms talks on limiting medium-range missiles in Europe, of overwhelming importance to the Russians, are to continue, and there is still talk in Washington of a possible Reagan-Brezhnev summit.

In spite of—and maybe because of—the growing influence of the military forces within the Soviet Union itself, the Soviet party leadership cannot but be alarmed by the virtual abolition of the Polish

Continued on page 4, col 1

President's brother shot in Iran

Hojatolislam Muhammad Khamenei, a deputy of the Majlis (Parliament) and the brother of President Ali Khamenei, was shot and wounded yesterday in Tehran, the Iranian radio reported.

The radio, monitored in London, added that his two bodyguards were killed but that his own injuries were superficial. The assassination attempt was the latest in a series of attacks against fundamentalist clergy members of Parliament in recent months. As usual, Tehran radio blamed "American agents" for yesterday's attack. This is generally a reference to leftist Muslim mujahedin guerrillas who, the Iranian Government claims, are supported by the United States.

Dozens of deputies have been killed over the past eight months, including more than 20 in one bomb blast last June. President Khamenei himself was wounded by a booby-trapped tape recorder in June as he addressed worshippers in a mosque.

Tehran evening newspapers said that the President's brother was travelling by car to the Majlis in the centre of the capital yesterday morning when gunmen opened fire from a building site. Meanwhile, Hojatolislam Mortaza Husaini, the newly appointed judge responsible for fighting "impious acts", announced yesterday that his tribunal would continue its struggle against "adultery, treason, homosexuality, gambling, abuse, hypocrisy, and sympathy for atheists and hypocrites". Impious acts requiring priority attention were "adultery, gambling, homosexuality and alcohol consumption", he said.

He added that women who did not take to the veil would have to face the anger of God and the people. Reuters and AFP.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Keep law of blasphemy, Runcie says

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, has told the Law Commission that the law of blasphemy should be retained for the Christian religion and extended to cover other religions (Our Legal Correspondent writes).

In his response to the commission's working paper on blasphemy published last year, Dr Runcie says that the law was needed not because God or Christ needed protection. The object, he says, is to protect the fundamental sacred beliefs of all religious people from deep and hurtful attacks.

Dr Runcie accepts that there might be some difficulty in defining which religions should be protected, but does not see that as an insurmountable obstacle.

In preparing his response, which is the Church of England's official reply to the Law Commission's proposals, Dr Runcie was advised by the Bishop of London, Sir Norman Anderson, QC, and the Rev Keith Ward.

The commission had suggested that the law of blasphemy should be abolished and replaced by a new crime of using threatening, insulting or abusive words or behaviour in a place of worship.

Bibles and bridges, page 5

Ford strikers back down

The last area of resistance by Ford workers to a 7.4 per cent pay offer disappeared yesterday when 10,000 on official strike at the Halewood plant on Merseyside agreed to return to work today (Our Labour Staff writes).

A meeting of 1,600 workers at the Swansea transmission plant voted on Saturday to call off unofficial action and return to work today. The 1,600 men, which had threatened to strike from today unless the offer was improved, will also work normally.

Sealink union's plea to Howell

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, was asked by the Sealink Ferry and Airlines Officers' Association yesterday to intervene in the dispute which has halted British Sealink ferry services to Ireland and the Continent.

Firemen save sisters overcome by fumes

Naida and Saida Khalil, twin sisters aged seven, and their sister Parveen, aged four, were recovering in hospital last night after firemen rescued them from a fire at their home in Park Terrace, Keighley, West Yorkshire.

The girls were in bed and had stopped breathing because of fumes but revived after being given oxygen. Their brother Bahar, aged 13, was also taken to hospital.

Police federation chief stays on

Mr Alan Wright, chairman of the Northern Ireland Police Federation who resigned last week after a dispute involving the federation, and Sir John Hermon the Chief Constable, is to stay in office. His decision comes after a meeting of the central committee of the federation which endorsed a vote of confidence in him.

Murder charge

Stephen Sutton, aged 25, of Margery Park Road, Forest Gate, east London, has been charged with the murder of James Mesher, aged 24, of Baddow Court, Woodford Green, Essex, who was found dead outside the Eastern Curry House, Romford Road, Stratford, east London, on Saturday.

Penlee romance over

Mr Terry Brown, who proposed to a woman he met after his former wife and daughters drowned in a Penlee disaster, returned to his wife in South Africa yesterday and declared that his romance with Mrs Jamie Blair-Stewart was over. He said he expected to be dismissed from his lecturer's post.

Job loss fear in Civil Service technology deal

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The Cabinet is expected to decide within the next week whether to sign an agreement with Civil Service unions on the introduction of new technology. The unions have said that without an agreement they will not work with new machinery.

After more than two years of negotiations ministers must decide whether to meet union demands that there will be no compulsory redundancies because of the introduction of new technology.

Any agreement would be temporary. The Government is hoping that the new technology will make recommendations on productivity bargaining in the service.

An agreement would be seen by the Government as a significant boost to the Year of Information Technology, as 1982 has been designated. It is thought that the strongest pressure for an agreement is coming from ministers at the Department of Industry, which is leading the national campaign to get wider acceptance and understanding of new technology.

The unions fear that Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, are less keen on giving an undertaking on compulsory redundancies because they believe it could set a precedent.

A policy of non-cooperation would probably be difficult for the unions to organise and it would initially have little impact, but it could prove embarrassing for the Department of Industry, which as part of its contribution to the Year of Information Technology, is hoping to introduce new information processors and communications systems.

The unions are worried by the possible ramifications of the new computer plans for government departments. The

biggest is probably the proposal to introduce computerisation of the pay as you earn tax system, due to start in about two years.

There are also plans to replace the out-dated mainframe computer at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre in Swansea and to introduce computerised National Insurance and social security records, known as the Camelot system.

Camelot is likely to have the greatest impact on Civil Service jobs because it will link each social security office by visual display units to a central computer at Newcastle upon Tyne. Staff in the offices will be able to obtain information from the computer within seconds.

Most of the nine Civil Service unions, representing about 530,000 white collar staff, decided at annual conferences last year to adopt the non-cooperation policy if the Government was not prepared to give a firm undertaking on redundancies.

Some union leaders believe that new technology is a more important issue than the annual pay negotiations, which are about to start. The Government is determined to cut the Civil Service by about 40,000 jobs to meet its target of a core workforce of 680,000 by 1984, and the unions do not want to see even more jobs disappearing.

They believe that if they are involved in the planning stages of the new systems, they can be found work in other areas. After many difficulties during the long negotiations, the compulsory redundancy issue is now the only stumbling block to reaching an agreement. The Government has promised the unions to let them know its decision by the middle of next week.

Anti-Tory action campaign

By Donald MacIntyre

Senior union leaders are to launch a new anti-Tory action campaign between now and the next general election to help to relieve pressure on Labour Party funds.

The 1913 Trade Union Act of freeing the unions' general funds for a campaign of opposition to the Government on selected topics such as unemployment and public ownership.

Union and party leaders were told at their meeting in Bishop's Stortford last week that such a move would clear the way for a like the "Mr Cubes" anti-nationalization campaign mounted by industrialists and Conservative supporters during the mid-1970s.

The proposal comes in a section of the background report on finance put forward by Trade Unions for a Labour Victory (TULV) the organisation which hosted last week's meeting, which suggests ways of making up the £3m short fall in the expected £3m cost to Labour of fighting the next general election.

The 1913 Act, governing the payment of political levy, limits spending on party objectives to the £3m of political funds. The Certification Officer is responsible for reviewing complaints that general funds are being misused for political purposes.

The TULV paper says that despite the legal complications, it believes that it is entitled to campaign on primarily industrial issues in defence of its members' interests.

Any TUC campaign to help Labour in the next general election would almost certainly be criticized by leaders of politically uncommitted unions affiliated to the TUC but not to the Labour Party.

The total accumulated balance of union political funds stood at only £3.2m at the end of 1980, and party officials were told last week that the figure may not have increased during 1981 to keep up with inflation. By freeing general funds for a campaign against the Government, TULV would have greatly increased reserves for propaganda.

Tatchell to test Foot's peace pact

By Our Political Staff

The first test of the new peace agreement reached between Labour Party and trade union leaders at Stortford last week will come at today's meeting of the national subcommittee of the national executive when some controversial selections of candidates are to be reviewed.

After last week's meeting it was made clear that one of the conditions on which Mr Wedgwood Benn would agree not to stand again for the deputy leadership would be the acceptance of left-wing and Militant-supported candidates.

Selections coming up for review include those of Mr Tatchell, adopted at Southwark, Bermondsey, but rejected by Mr Michael Foot and a majority on the national executive for his statements on extra-parliamentary action; Mr Pat Wall, a Militant Party worker, adopted in Bradford, North, in preference to the sitting MP, Mr Benjamin Ford; and Mr Robert Clay, whose selection at Sunderland, North is being opposed, because he has been in the party less than two years.

Bermondsey Labour Party has chosen Mr Tatchell by 59 votes to seven and the constituency's management committee has written to the organization, subcommittee supporting his appeal.

The committee's motion stated: "We deplore the decision of the NEC not to endorse Peter Tatchell as our candidate as we can see no reasons for this decision. We believe that the NEC's decision is unprecedented in recent times threatens to split the Labour Party by the way in which it undermines the right of constituency parties to choose their own candidate."

It asks the subcommittee to start the process to reverse the NEC decision. In particular, it asks the subcommittee to change circumstances since the NEC decision—the announcement by the incumbent MP, Mr Robert Mellish, that he is not now intending to resign, thereby removing an imminent prospect of a by-election.



Down and out: The weather proved too much for this callbox in Shirwell, Devon, felled by an ice-laden bough.

Weather: A struggle back to normality

The stoics of Selby, upstairs

From Ronald Kershaw, Leeds

When the telephone rings at Park Farm Cottage, near Selby, north Yorkshire, the caller has to be patient because the subscriber, Mrs Carol Robinson, has to put on a pair of Wellingtons, go downstairs and negotiate a flooded ground floor before she can pick up the receiver.

Mrs Robinson, her husband and sons, Adrian, aged 18, and Ian, aged 15, have been stranded in their remote cottage since last Tuesday when three feet of floodwater swept into their home.

The River Ouse has dropped some six or seven feet since the height of the floods last week but the Westlands to the south-west of the river where the Robinsons live still has floodwater trapped outside the banks of the river.

In some places it is still more than five feet deep and is covered with a layer of ice. Mrs Robinson says that the Robinsons live still has floodwater trapped outside the banks of the river.

One piece of luck for the Robinsons was that the floodwater stopped half an inch below their lowest electricity

point. It meant that the power remained on and heating and cooking was possible. Both families have well-stocked deep freezers, balanced precariously on milk crates above the floodwater.

"It is easy to become depressed," Mrs Robinson said. "I keep looking at my kitchen where I have just spent £2,000 on a new layout with modern units. We had just about got it completed when the floods came."

"I was looking through the window the other day when I saw some rats running across the ice. I tried to open the window to shout to my husband and I broke the glass. I am afraid I burst into tears but on the whole we manage to stay cheerful."

Mr William Robinson and his wife work at Northern Dairies in Selby. Mr Clarke is a Central Electricity Generating Board worker at a power station and his wife is an administrative worker at Leeds Infirmary.

Elsewhere in the Selby area teams of local authority workers, police, gas and electricity board workers and the armed services are helping to get rid of the floodwater. The Selby water authority is pumping away the Yorkshire Water Authority.

Mr David Kidger, a spokesman for Selby District Council, said at the Selby flood control centre last night that pumping

was difficult because most of the floodwater now had three or four inches of ice on top. High tides are due today and tomorrow, but if the weather stays as it is there is no cause for alarm. The river could be tidal water from the Humber, but it there were a sudden thaw and it had to take ground water from the Dales as well there would be further flooding.

There are still about a dozen farms cut off. Mr Neville Barratt, of the National Farmers' Union, said some farmers had suffered heavily particularly where floodwaters had entered buildings to damage grain and potato stores. Many farms had winter wheat and barley under water and while those crops were able to withstand a certain amount of flooding there was no knowing how badly affected they had been.

Mr Barratt said he had no reports of livestock being lost. The main problem was that because of a good autumn, increased acreages of crops had been sown.

A matter of some concern to farmers was the likely effect of extracting mud from the new Selby colliery. He said farmers had been told by the National Coal Board that when that started there would be land subsidence of up to one metre.

Snow delays holiday skiers

By John Witherow

Britain's airports were struggling back to normal yesterday after the disruptions on Friday and Saturday because of the snow. The backlog of flights waiting to get away led to more frustrating delays for thousands of travellers.

At Gatwick, the blades of a snowplough were adjusted when it was found the machine had caused damage estimated at £25,000 to landing lights.

Gatwick remained open all day, after closing at times on Friday and Saturday, and attempted to clear a backlog of dozens of flights. Many of the flights were to and from Heathrow's terminal three.

On the whole, passengers were resigned rather than angry. Mrs Mary Evans, of Blackpool, for example, who was due to fly to Sydney on

Friday to visit her son, was still queuing yesterday. She was now booked on a flight involving changes at Singapore. At worst staff at the British Airways information desk were being asked to deal with a flood of violence rather than its implementation. But the airport police were called when some 500 furious passengers, delayed for 24 hours, appeared set to board their aircraft and set off personally for their destination. According to a spokesman, however, the matter was settled amicably and passengers were quickly dispersed.

Queuing became an art form at Heathrow's terminal three. Passengers with blank, tired, expressions queued for tickets, telephone boxes and even sympathy.

Some queued to be told their flights were cancelled and were then instructed to join another queue which snaked around the building, with the promise of a four-hour shuffling wait.

Having reached the end of their queue they were invariably told the next available flight would be at least 24 hours away and were then asked to join the queue for buses to take them to a hotel.

There were delays and many cancelled flights yesterday and some crowds were greater than on the previous two days when the airport was swept by fierce snowstorms.

Stunned airport remained open throughout Saturday night, in spite of the snow. Birmingham and East Midlands airports closed for a while.

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Cash plea to help mental patients

By Annabel Farriman, Health Services Correspondent

Local councils must be given more money immediately if the Government's plan to move 10,000 people from mental hospitals to be realized, the Independent Development Council for People with Mental Handicap says.

Unless parents caring for mentally handicapped children at home are given more support, 10,000 more people may soon need hospital care rather than 20,000 patients leave, it says.

"It is estimated that there are some 5,000 people living with parents who are more than 75 years of age, many of these being single-parent families," it says.

"Local studies show that these parents are having to shoulder appalling burdens and are not likely to be able to continue providing care for their sons and daughters much longer."

Taking into account that many younger parents are finding the task impossible, 10,000 people could need residential care over the next 10 years, it says.

The council, which was set up last July by six mental health charities, was replying to the Government document *Care in the Community*, published last year.

It rejects the document's seven methods for transferring resources from hospitals to the community. Instead, it favours a further expansion of existing grants to local authorities specifically for the care of the mentally ill and handicapped.

The council joins the Royal Institute of Public Administration and the Campaign for Mentally Handicapped People in saying that the Government would be naive to imagine that its new policy can be developed without extra resources.

It says that if mental patients live in the community, there will be a greater need for care centres, adult training centres, home visiting and other family support services.

"We are confident that the unit cost of a good community care service will be higher than that of hospitals with poor staffing ratios and other inadequacies."

It wants councils rather than health authorities to take responsibility for developing those services with advice from joint planning bodies established by each council and its district health authority.

The development council, whose chairman is Mr Brian Rix, the former actor, is supported by MENCAP, the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults (MIND), the National Association for Mental Health, the Spastics Society, Dr Barnardo's, the Association of Professionals for the Mentally Handicapped and the Campaign for Mentally Handicapped People.

The latter, in its response to the Government's plan, criticizes a suggestion that the first people to leave hospital should be the least severely handicapped.

"Since the more handicapped people tend to live in the worst back wards, it could be argued that there are strong moral reasons for discharging the most deprived group first," it says.

Curb sought on councils' water power

By David Walker

Councils should have much less say in the running of the nine statutory water supply authorities responsible for water supply, sewerage and rivers in England, according to a Government consultation paper to be published this week.

The paper, from the Department of the Environment, will embody proposals for a big reorganization of the water industry based on the number of local councils on the water authorities have been run since 1974.

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Science report
Vortex of gas may power galaxies

By the Staff of "Nature"

A group of astrophysicists working at Cambridge has proposed an elegant new theory of radiogalaxies, mysterious objects in deep space which have puzzled astronomers since their discovery in the early 1950s.

Radiogalaxies are immensely powerful emitters. For example Cygnus A (the first radiogalaxy to be identified optically as well as in radio waves) radiates 100 trillion trillion trillion watts of power in radio, millions of times the entire output from our own radio-quiet galaxy, the Milky Way. Another strange feature is that a radiogalaxy tends to emit its radiation from two distinct blobs of matter on either side of, and leading away from, the main optical galaxy of stars—while the galaxy and its nucleus themselves produce a little radio radiation. The question is, from where do these streaks get their staggering energy?

Theorists have concentrated on the galactic nucleus, but two new proposals appear to go on in many galaxies, but until now no theory has been able to account satisfactorily for both the quantity of energy both the quantity of energy and the beaming of the energy in opposite directions. Now Professor Martin Rees and Dr. Stephen Hawking, of the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge, together with visiting American colleagues Mr. Mitchell Begelman of the California Institute of Technology and Mr. Roger Blandford of the University of California at Berkeley, may have found the answer.

Writing in *Nature*, the group makes two radical propositions: first, that the source of the energy is the rotation of a giant black hole 100 million times the mass of the Sun; and second, that the rotational energy is extracted by magnetic phenomena in a vortex of gas spinning around the black hole, working like a kind of giant electromagnetic machine.

Under the right conditions, the group argues, the spinning gas (coming perhaps from stars disrupted by passing too close to the black hole) can trap faint galactic magnetic fields and compress them, creating the rotation axis. As the same time, the compression of the field would cause electric currents to flow on the inner surface of the whirlpool. Electromagnetic fields would be set off and small amounts of the gas in the vortex and deposit them downwards into the black hole. This slows the black hole down, and creates radiation which travels up out of the vortex.

This radiation carries away the energy lost by the slowing of the black hole, and is beamed along the rotation axis by the narrow vortex. The emission is symmetrical about the axis of the vortex, and the energy is carried away by the slowing of the black hole, and is beamed along the rotation axis by the narrow vortex. The emission is symmetrical about the axis of the vortex, and the energy is carried away by the slowing of the black hole, and is beamed along the rotation axis by the narrow vortex.

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Poland: Nato looks for answer

Haig meets resistance in Brussels today

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 10

The Polish crisis has forced Nato to call a special meeting of the North Atlantic Council for the first time in its history. The meeting takes place in Brussels tomorrow with the urgent task of proving the unity of the alliance.

The importance of the meeting is underlined by the fact that Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, will be there. His aim is to reinforce the European members of the alliance and to take tougher action in line with American sanctions already announced against the Soviet Union.

European foreign ministers held a special informal meeting a week ago to work out a statement on Poland, but it was only in the Nato forum that a meeting involving allies from both sides of the Atlantic can properly take place.

An all-party delegation of American congressmen arrived in Brussels last week made it plain that they were disappointed but not surprised that the EEC foreign ministers had condemned martial law in Poland but had stopped short of agreeing on any sanctions. The congressmen were, however, pleased by undertakings not to undermine American sanctions and to support a suggestion that Europe might impose import restrictions on Soviet goods.

The three prime objectives of the European countries were spelt out last week in the statement agreed by the EEC foreign ministers in Brussels. These are: an early end to martial law, a release of those arrested; and a return to the talks between the Government and the Catholic Church.

These objectives could be shared by the United States; but the tactics required to achieve them lie at the centre of the discussions which will form the basis of tomorrow's meeting.

European diplomats are expecting — and in some cases preparing to resist — pressure from Mr Haig to push the allies into producing a final statement that would include a commitment to take tough concrete measures against the Soviet Union.

The Polish authorities may have had this in mind when they lifted some restrictions on the communication over the weekend in a move at least partly aimed at soothing European feelings.

Although there is a shared European view that the imposition of martial law must have been with Soviet knowledge and support, there is no accepted proof of direct involvement in what occurred.

One diplomat explained:

"The one circumstance we made no allowances for was that the Poles might invade themselves."

The difficulty in agreeing tactics is underlined by the continuing uncertainty among the allies as to what prompted the takeover by General Wojciech Jaruzelski. West Germany and Greece are still prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt and conclude that he stepped in to forestall a Soviet invasion.

West German sources indicate that their Government is unlikely to agree to any measures that could seriously damage its policy of détente; Greece is not prepared to endorse a final statement condemning the Soviet Union; France will oppose moves to cut off essential aid to Poland.

France also has suggested at meetings of officials that Washington is guilty of trying to impose a double set of standards. The French Government contrasts the American stand on Poland with the support it gives to the military regimes in Turkey, Chile and El Salvador.

A number of European countries, notably France and West Germany, also are unhappy about the fact that a grain embargo, while at the same time it is expected to stop its rewarding high technology trade with the Soviet block.

Schmidt argues case for early summit

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 10

New impetus for an early summit between President Reagan and President Brezhnev came today from Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor.

He said that a meeting between the two leaders was needed to avoid Soviet miscalculations and to make the Russians understand "the guts that are behind the American President".

In a recorded interview on an ABC Television news programme, Herr Schmidt told Americans: "They [the Russians] underestimate you, and this is a great danger. It can lead to miscalculations which might spell danger for all of us — for you as well as for us in West Europe, as well as for them."

President Reagan has already forecast that a summit meeting is likely to take place this year, and Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said recently that the President believed that summit meetings might be even more necessary in times of crisis than in calm.

Today's interview was recorded during Herr Schmidt's visit to Washington last week and of which he and President Reagan issued a joint statement asserting Soviet responsibility for events in Poland.

The interview was broadcast just as Mr Haig was leaving Washington for tomorrow's special session of Nato's foreign ministers in Brussels. After this Mr Haig is travelling to Egypt and Israel.

Truncheons for some, but 'very lax' for others

By Denis Taylor

Passengers on a charter flight from Warsaw to Heathrow Airport, London, yesterday told contrasting stories of their experiences in Poland.

Mr Steve Brent, a news agency photographer, said that special police officers beat him with rubber truncheons and hurled him against a wall as he took pictures of an anti-military demonstration in Katowice. He was released when he saw his photographer's pass.

But last Wednesday he was detained in Lodz, questioned and held in a police cell. "They pushed me around and all I had in 48 hours was a few cups of tea, I explained I had been given a visa by the Polish consul in London and at last they let me go. I was allowed to go to Warsaw but had to stay in my hotel room waiting for a plane."

A printer from Cambridge, who arrived on the same aircraft, said on the BBC Radio programme *The World This Weekend*: "Travelling is almost impossible as far as official permission is concerned, but travelling without permission is as easy as



Greg Midkiff, journalist for the *Sunday Mirror*, due to travel for visa irregularities.

At its first meeting since the imposition of martial law, the Communist Party of Great Britain called for "the immediate release of the detained representatives of trade union and other democratic organizations, the restoration of democratic rights to the Polish people and a return to civilian rule."

parties, put to Mr Marian Wozniak from the Polish party here on Wednesday.

The Russians acknowledge that changes are essential if Poland is to become solvent. But how far change goes and how it affects ideology is a problem that will remain long after the crisis is over. For, as the Russians know, economic relations determine the nature of communism.

The cost of a complete return to orthodoxy will be too high for the Russians and their Eastern block partners in Comecon to bear. Czechoslovakia has already shown how stagnation follows repression.

Greeks point finger at Turks

Mario Modiano, Athens, Jan 10

Greece is likely to block any agreement on sanctions against Poland or the Soviet Union at tomorrow's special session of Nato foreign ministers in Brussels by proposing, it is also felt, parallel sanctions against Turkey, which is also under military rule.

This was implied in a letter sent by the Government to Nato ambassadors in Athens on Friday. It expressed the view that Nato was hardly the right forum to condemn a military dictatorship, seeing that the alliance harboured one in its own ranks — meaning Turkey.

The letter outlined then context within which Mr Ioannis Haralambopoulos, the Greek Foreign Minister, who left for Brussels today, would be prepared to cooperate in formulating a common stand by Nato's 15 members on the Polish crisis.

Athens hopes that strong opposition by other members to the sanctions proposed by a United States draft resolution will not be blamed again for the failure of a Nato meeting.

Last month it blocked a communiqué by the Defence Planning Committee and last week Mr Asimakopoulas, the Foreign Affairs Undersecretary, was dismissed for endorsing the EEC's condemnation of Soviet pressures on Poland.

Greece has been made aware that if this obstructionism continues, the joint communiqué would be issued in the name of the other 14 members.

The Greek Government's letter to Nato ambassadors said that while Athens denounces the imposition of martial law in Poland, it could be counter-productive at a time when there were hopeful signs that the Poles might be able to work out their own problems without outside interference.

At the same time, while it is recognised that there was Soviet involvement, the Greek Government says that from the legal point of view the evidence is not strong enough to justify a further worsening of East-West relations with sanctions.

Mr Haralambopoulos' brief is apparently to reject the American draft and to support an alternative text proposed by Canada, West Germany and Belgium, or the compromise draft of the Nato Secretariat, with modifications.

Western diplomats in Athens are depressed even puzzled by the strength of feeling displayed by Greece in its attitudes on Poland, which is hard to explain in terms of national interest or of ideology.

Greece has a surplus of citrus fruit this season and the Soviet block intends to buy a lot, but that hardly explains the ardour with which the issue is being handled in Athens. Wholesale condemnation of non-Communist military regimes and alleged American involvement in them, is commonplace, in spite of Greece's interests in those countries.

Opposition sources are surmising that in return for blocking joint Western action on Poland, Athens may have secured pledges that the pro-Moscow Communist Party will restrain its militant trade unions over the Government's delicate policy.



Begin buys off Yamit settlers with £130m

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Jan 10

Mr Yoram Aridor, Israel's Minister of Finance, stepped back from a threatened confrontation with Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, and flew to London on a delayed Government mission.

There had been speculation about his impending resignation when he cancelled his flight on Friday after being outvoted in a heated Cabinet discussion of compensation to be paid to Israeli displaced persons and homes in Sinai by the Israeli withdrawal in April. The Cabinet voted to pay more than 4,000 Shekels (£130m) to residents of the town of Yamit and surrounding settlements. The minister's mission to Britain is to take part in a drive to sell Israeli government bonds.

Mr Begin, who had pushed through the compensation decision on Thursday by a 5-4 vote, with eight abstentions, cancelled today's scheduled weekly Cabinet meeting. His office claimed there were no urgent matters to discuss; but it was widely suspected that he wished to forestall any further discussion on the issue which he felt had been passed by the force of his own personality.

Abstainers and some of Mr Begin's supporters in the vote privately agreed with Mr Aridor that the compensation was too liberal and said the Government had yielded to the settlers' threats of violence.

By flying to London today, Mr Aridor was relieved of taking part in a meeting of the parliamentary finance committee, which is to decide on the expenditure. Coalition parties have a one-man majority in the committee but deputies said they will not rubber-stamp the Government's decision. Rabbi Shlomo Lorbeer, the chief rabbi of Israel, said the committee was unlikely to reach a decision tomorrow.

Libyans in Ghana for talks

Accra, Jan 10—Flight

Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, who led the military coup here 10 days ago, is believed to have discussed restoring diplomatic ties with Libya in his talks with Libyan officials now visiting Accra, the Ghana news agency reported.

It said the delegation came here yesterday to express solidarity with the National Defence Council, which was set up after the civilian administration of President Hilla Limann was overthrown in the coup. Diplomatic relations between Libya and Ghana were broken off last year after alleged subversive activities by Libyan diplomats.

The agency quoted Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings as saying Ghana would cooperate with all countries, irrespective of ideological persuasion, in its struggle to build a just, equitable society. The delegation delivered greetings from the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, to Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings, but no details were given of the talks held later.

From Abidjan it is reported that Ghana's borders, ports and airports were re-opened officially yesterday, although intending air travellers have been continually frustrated in their efforts to "obtain landing permission in Accra."

Kitson is in good health consul says

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Jan 10

Mr Steven Kitson, the young British Rolls-Royce engineer detained by South African security police, was visited in jail yesterday by Mr Robert Miller, the British Consul in Johannesburg. The visit lasted 45 minutes and Mr Kitson was in good health.

He was arrested on Thursday after visiting his father, one of the few white members of the banned African National Congress, who is serving a 20-year sentence in Pretoria for sabotage.

Mr Kitson's friends said he had "done two little drawings while standing outside the prison waiting to see his father. He did this openly. He told us that he didn't try to conceal them when approached by the warder. Police arrested him the next day at the flat in Johannesburg where he was staying."

The South African allegations have been sharply criticized by Mr Raymond Tucker, Mr Kitson's lawyer in Johannesburg. "It is extraordinary that the Police Commissioner should be permitted to pronounce publicly on the guilt of Mr Kitson and to conduct a trial by press statement," he said.

Spanish spy accused of checking on judge

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Jan 10

Spain's espionage service, the Centre for Advance Defence Information Studies (CESID), found itself in the limelight today after police caught one of its agents allegedly spying on a judge who recently sent another CESID agent to prison.

Despite a denial from the Defence Ministry that the agent's mission had anything to do with the judge, there was indignation among members of the judiciary. Doubts among members of the National Police about the veracity of the denial made front-page headlines in Madrid.

Last Thursday police detained a young man outside the Palace of Justice, the main Madrid court. He was carrying a camera in a briefcase designed to take photographs through a peephole. The man carried no documents, but turned out to be Francisco Fernández Montes, aged 21, a member of the parliamentary Civil Guard police, on one of his first missions for CESID. As he was arrested, police noticed that a white Renault 5 parked near by sped away.

Later that day, a white Renault 5 with three men in it, was parked outside the home of Señor Ricardo Varón Cobos, a judge with known right-wing sympathies, when the judge returned home.

According to reports published here, one of the men in the car was apparently taking photographs when the judge arrived. Members of the judge's police escort tried to identify the occupants of the car, but again it sped away. The licence number turned out to be false.

Early on Friday the agent was released without charges after his CESID superiors supported his story that he was on a legitimate mission. They did not say what that mission was.

A statement by the Defence Ministry published today said that he was on a secret mission that did not involve photographing any of the judges or employees at the Palace of Justice. It also said there was no relation between his actions and the mysterious men in the Renault 5.

The Ministry advised that "the publication of the identity of members of the armed forces assigned to military intelligence service is contrary to the interests of national defence and could endanger the security of the state and safety of the agents themselves."

The liberal Madrid daily *Diario 16* said the statement was received "with scepticism in high police circles" and it alleged that the agent was involved in investigations into right-wing efforts to destabilize the post-Franco democracy. The newspaper also said that Judge Varón Cobos recently sent another CESID agent to prison for gun running. It identified that agent as José Gutiérrez and said he was highly respected in the espionage agency.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Koivisto heads for victory

Helsinki—Mr Mauno Koivisto, the Finnish Prime Minister, has maintained his overwhelming opinion poll lead in the presidential election campaign. Voting will take place next Sunday and Monday. A 301-member council of electors will then choose the president on January 26. The latest poll said 56 per cent preferred Mr Koivisto, a moderate Social Democrat, as President. In September, the figure was 60 per cent and in late November 54 per cent in the same poll (Ole Kivinen writes).

The main non-socialist candidates come far behind. Mr Harri Holkeri, of the Conservatives, is second with 12 per cent and Mr Johannes Virolainen of the Centre Party third with 11 per cent. The poll forecasts disaster for the badly split Communists. Their candidate received only 3 per cent support. In last year's local elections the Communists received 17 per cent of votes.

Earth tremors hit Canada

Halifax, Canada.—Two earth tremors shook Canada's Atlantic coast and were felt in the north-east United States. No casualties were reported. Experts expressed amazement because the region has none of the geological features typical of earthquake zones.

The first tremor measured 5.5 on the Richter scale. Its epicentre was in New Brunswick, about 62 miles north of Fredericton. The United States Earthquake Control Centre in Boulder, Colorado said it was the strongest to strike that part of Canada since 1855. The second tremor had an intensity of 4.9, the Canadian Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources said in Ottawa.

Minister feared dead in crash



Kuala Lumpur.—Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, the Malaysian Foreign Minister, is missing and feared dead after the wreckage of the six-seater single-engine aircraft he was flying in was found. An official statement confirmed that his aircraft had crashed into a hill near Janda Baik village, about 20 miles east of here. Unconfirmed reports later said three bodies had been found.

The minister, aged 60, was believed to be on his way to visit his constituency which he had represented for about a decade. He has been a Cabinet Minister since 1970.

Salisbury police detain white

Salisbury.—Zimbabwe police have arrested a young white man after discovering a large arms cache here. Seven men, rifles, explosives and more than 20,000 rounds of ammunition were found. Police who found the weapons had been investigating illegal gun dealing.

The arrested man is being held incommunicado at Chikurubi prison. He brings the number of people detained under emergency regulations since October to 13, all of them white. Last week it was confirmed that three members of the Central Intelligence Organisation, the equivalent of the Special Branch, had been arrested.

Sudan opposition leader dies

Khartoum.—Sherif Husain Rishi, Chief Sudanese opposition leader, died of a heart attack, President Nimeiry said.

Mr Nimeiry said Mr Rishi died when he fell sick in Saudi Arabia where he had gone due to "his opposition to the people's revolution in Sudan". The statement did not say where Mr Rishi had died.

Max the Kid held in Paris

Paris.—Police have arrested a 10-year-old alleged gang leader and drug addict, identified as "Max the Kid" on charges of robbing at least 150 people. He is charged with two 14-year-olds, with attacking people in the Paris Metro and Les Halles shopping complex, threatening with razors and knuckledusters.

China-India talks

Delhi.—India and China in May expect to hold more talks on their disputed border, a dispute that led to a war in 1962, the Press Trust of India news agency said. A first round of talks was held in Peking last month. The next round probably will be held in Delhi.

The girl in the paper box



Tram Thi-Het began her life sleeping in a cardboard box on a Saigon street. The photograph by an American war correspondent saved her life. Eight years later a warm hug shows the love of Ms Evelyn Hall, a teacher of Springfield, Ohio, who has adopted her.

Zia inaugurates his Islamic federal council

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad, Jan 10

An important new stage in President Zia ul-Haq's controversial programme for the Islamization of Pakistan will be reached tomorrow with the inauguration of his 287-member Federal Council.

It will meet in the offices of the National Assembly, now renamed the Majlis-e-Shoora to emphasize the religious nature of the new council.

All the members have been nominated after a prolonged screening from district level upwards by provincial governors and the President's own representatives. General Zia has described his nominees as "respectable, honest religious men wedded to the Pakistan ideology".

The members are supposed to be non-political, but most of them have a political background and the majority belonged to various factions of the Muslim League or the Pakistan People's Party. Few are front-rank politicians.

Other major interests represented are traders, religious bodies, the press and industrialists. There are a few women and non-Muslims. The President says the council is not a substitute for an elected body, yet the state-controlled media give the impression that it is the precursor of an Islamic system being planned by the Council of Islamic Ideology.

The presidential order establishing the Federal Council makes it clear it will function only with the President's agreement and that it will serve as an advisory body on legislative, administrative and fiscal matters, without the power of veto on government decisions.

The Federal Council follows General Zia's attempts in the past four years to broaden the base of his regime under martial law. Several important leaders, including Mr. Abdul Wali Khan, former Leader of the Opposition during Bhutto's time, the late Mr. Mustafa Jatoi, the late Mr. Bhutto's lieutenant and former Sind Chief Minister, Air Marshal



Asghar Khan, Tehrike Istiqlal leader were said to have been asked to form a government under General Zia, but it is believed they insisted on a plan for elections and the total transfer of power to the elected Parliament and its Government.

General Zia has insisted that internal and external conditions, especially the continuing Afghan crisis and what he sees as India's belligerent attitude makes it impossible to order a general election in Pakistan.

General Zia wishes to appoint another 63 people to the council. The completion of the present council shows that great care has been taken in filling the seats to satisfy the demands of different tribes, clans and other vested interests which dominate Pakistan's feudal society.

With luck, which General Zia never seems to lack, the new political system may help him to rule without serious challenge for quite some time.

Shootout in Tirana a headache for Hoxha

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade, Jan 10

With the Albanian Parliament due to meet this week to rubber-stamp a successor to Mehmet Shehu, attention is still focused on his mysterious death and the subsequent developments.

Last month the long-serving Prime Minister was reported to have committed suicide. The regime appeared to respond with anger to his death and he was denied state honours.

Mr. Enver Hoxha, the party leader, has not been seen in public since then and reports reaching here say his portrait has been removed from public places. Some indication of his standing may come tomorrow at the ceremony marking Albania's post-war proclamation of its People's Republic. The highest dignitaries usually attend.

The identity of the new prime minister is intriguing because it will signify what direction Albania will go.

After the break with China in 1978 the withdrawal of aid had an adverse economic effect on a country that has the lowest per capita income in Europe. A new approach was needed and lately there have been timid indications of a desire to open up, primarily towards West Europe. At the last party congress there was a change with regard to West Germany — Albania no longer insisted on war reparation as a condition for diplomatic relations. Even in relations with Britain, over which the return of Albanian gold is still a main obstacle, there is a more flexible attitude, though Tirana insists on the gold being returned before diplomatic relations can be resumed.

Shehu's name was linked with a more open policy, but there is still much that remains unclear.

Another question is the fate of Mr. Shehu's widow Mrs. Kreshna Sangaku, who, along with Ramiz Alia, Politburo member and now the second man of Albanian party, was in charge of ideology. She has enforced the rigid line and has often been spoken of as the woman of iron.

She is party secretary of Tirana, the capital, which suggests that she has a strong power base. She is also the head of the party school at the central committee which means that the new generation of leaders is chosen after her recommendation. But her future, too, is now affected because of the disapproval of Mr. Shehu.

Rumours about how Shehu died abound. It has been suggested that he was killed in a shoot-out. According to this version, a meeting of the two Albanian leaders had been called for on the night of December 17. Shehu pulled a gun on Mr. Hoxha and was shot instantly. Another report said Mr. Hoxha was shot and injured by the Minister of Defence.

Family ties and tribal loyalties play a crucial part in the Hoxha hierarchy. During the various purges connected with Albania's shifting alliances, the executions of political opponents often meant liquidation of their families, too.

The late Prime Minister had personally executed many of Mr. Hoxha's political opponents.

The Soviet Union has been making peace overtures for many years and offers to establish diplomatic relations at least once a year, usually on the eve of Albania's national day. There is little likelihood that Albania will move in the Soviet direction while Mr. Hoxha is in power. It would mean loss of face and in Albania, where face is more important than anything else, it would be the end of him. It is believed that the Soviet Union is trying to affect a rapprochement by proxy. Vietnam is the only Communist country which maintains a close relationship with Tirana.



1882: Sylvia Pankhurst born; the Law Courts opened; A. A. Milne, creator of Pooh, born; Geoffrey de Havilland, Mosquito inventor, born

Charles Robert Maturin, Irish writer of Gothic romances was born, 1782. John Bunyan's *The Holy War*, was published, 1682. F. Anstey's *Vice Versa* and Richard Jefferies's *Bevis* were published, 1882. The Church Army was founded, 1882.

- ### JANUARY
- 1 Johann Christian Bach, German composer, died, 1782.
 - 2 William Harrison Ainsworth, novelist, died, 1882.
 - 3 Robert Morrison, missionary to China, born, 1782.
 - 4 Richard Henry Dana, American writer, died, 1882.
 - 5 Peter Dawson, Australian singer, born, 1882.
 - 6 Alan Alexander Milne, writer of children's stories, born, 1882.
 - 7 John Linnell, painter, died, 1882.
 - 8 Virginia Woolf, critic and novelist, born, 1882.
 - 9 First meeting of The London Chamber of Commerce, 1882.
 - 10 Daniel Aubert, French composer, born, 1782.
 - 11 Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd President of the USA, born, 1882.
 - 12 Anna Pavlova, Russian prima ballerina, born, 1882.



Anna Pavlova

- ### FEBRUARY
- 2 James Joyce, Irish novelist, born, 1882. James Stephens, Irish poet, born, 1882.



Portrait of James Joyce by Wyndham Lewis

- 13 Thomas Thynne of Longleat, assassinated, 1682.
- 14 George Jean Nathan, American writer, born, 1882.
- 15 John Barrymore, American actor, born, 1882.
- 16 Luca Della Robbia, Italian sculptor, died, 1482.
- 17 Eric Gill, sculptor and typographer, born, 1882.
- 18 Alessandro Stradella, Italian composer, died, 1682.

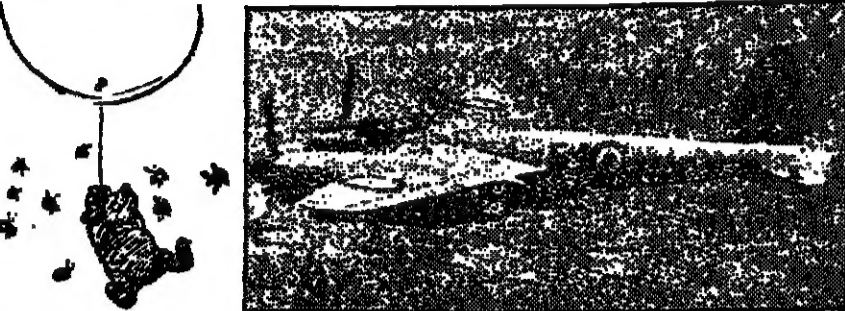
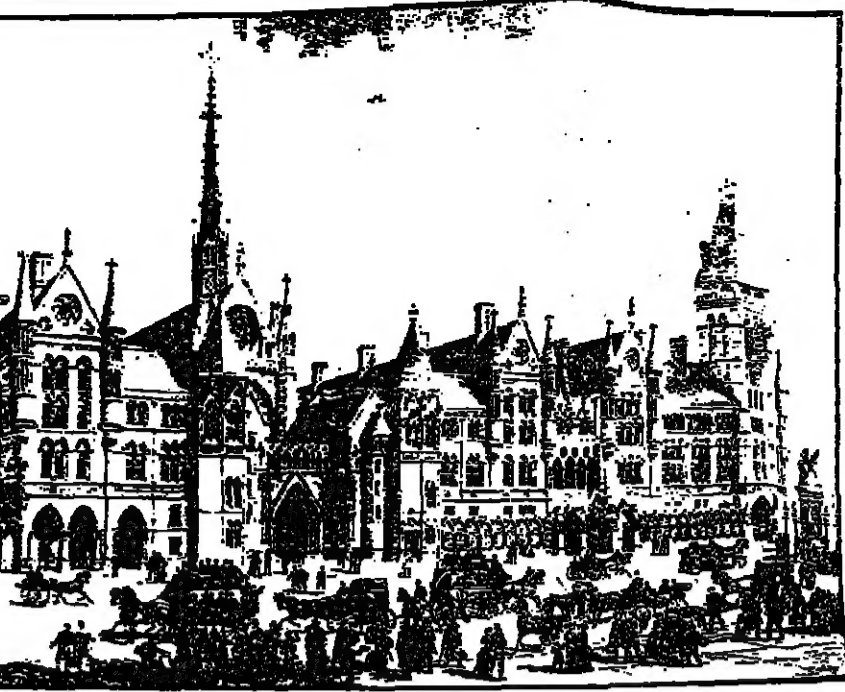


- ### MARCH
- 2 Attempted assassination of Queen Victoria at Windsor Station by Frederick Maclean, 1882.
 - 3 Jacob van Ruysdael, Dutch painter, died, 1682.
 - 4 Ralph Lynn, comedy actor, born, 1882. Gian Francesco Malipiero, Italian composer, born, 1882.
 - 5 George Charles ("Boatswain") Smith, founder of seamen's missions, born, 1782.
 - 6 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet, died, 1882.
 - 7 Haydn Wood, composer, born, 1882.
 - 8 Frederick Nash, painter, born, 1782.
 - 9 Dora Greenwell, essayist and poet, died, 1882.
 - 10 Sicilian Vespers — the massacre of the French in Sicily, 1282. Melanie Klein, Austrian psycho-analyst, born, 1882.

- ### APRIL
- 2 Deneys Reitz, South African soldier and writer, born, 1882.
 - 3 Bartolome Murillo, Spanish painter, died, 1682. Jesse James, American outlaw, murdered, 1882.
 - 4 Phineas Fletcher, poet, baptized, 1582.



- 9 Dante Gabriel Rossetti, painter and poet, died, 1882.
- 10 Antonio Metastasio, Italian poet and dramatist, died, 1782.
- 11 Jan van Eyck, Dutch painter, born, 1382.
- 12 William Jerdan, Scottish journalist, born, 1782.
- 13 Arthur Schnabel, Austrian pianist, born, 1882.
- 14 Leopold Stokowski, American (English-born) conductor, born, 1882.
- 15 Charles Darwin, naturalist, died, 1882.
- 16 Friedrich Wilhelm Froebel, German philosopher and educator, born, 1782.
- 17 Hugh Caswell Dowling, 1st Baron Dowling, Air Chief Marshal, born, 1882.
- 18 Ralph Waldo Emerson, American philosopher, poet and essayist, died, 1882.
- 19 John Nelson Darby, founder of the Darbyite sect of the Plymouth Brethren, died, 1882.



1882: Sylvia Pankhurst born; the Law Courts opened; A. A. Milne, creator of Pooh, born; Geoffrey de Havilland, Mosquito inventor, born

- ### MAY
- 5 Sir Douglas Mawson, scientist and explorer, born, 1882.
 - 6 Sylvia Pankhurst, militant suffragette, born, 1882.
 - 7 Murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Thomas Henry Burke, by Fenians in Phoenix Park, Dublin, 1882.
 - 8 Georges Braque, French Painter, born, 1882.
 - 9 Richard Wilson, painter, died, 1782.
 - 10 John Sell Cotman, painter, born, 1782.
 - 11 Sigrid Undset, Norwegian novelist, born, 1882.

- ### JUNE
- 1 John Drinkwater, poet and dramatist, born, 1882.
 - 2 Giuseppe Garibaldi, Italian patriot, died, 1882.
 - 3 James Thomson, poet, author of *The City of Dreadful Night*, died, 1882.
 - 4 Cecilia, by Fanny Burney, published, 1782. Charles Waterton, naturalist, born, 1782.



- 17 Igor Stravinsky, Russian composer, born, (O.S. 5th), 1882.
- 18 Rockwell Kent, American painter, born, 1882.
- 19 Joachim Raff, German composer, died, 1882.
- 20 Joseph Hanson, architect and inventor, died, 1882.

- ### JULY
- 8 Percy Grainger, Australian composer, born, 1882. Hubert Knight Browne ("Phiz"), artist and book illustrator, died, 1882.



Dame Sybil Thorndike

- 12 Jean Picard, French astronomer, born, 1682.
- 13 Edward Hopper, American painter, born, 1882.
- 14 Harold Brighouse, dramatist born, 1882. John Field, Irish composer, born, 1782.
- 15 Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, aircraft designer and manufacturer, born, 1882.

- ### AUGUST
- 10 Sir Charles James Napier, soldier, born, 1782.
 - 11 William Stanley Jevons, economist, died, 1882.
 - 12 Married Women's Property Act, passed, 1882.

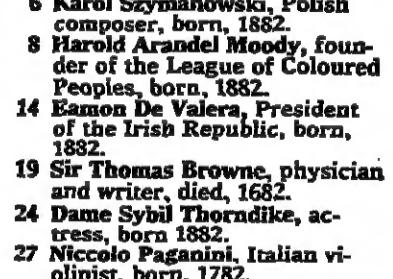


Sinking of the Royal George

- 27 Sam Goldwyn, American film producer, born, 1882.
- 29 Sinking of the Royal George at Spithead, with an estimated loss of 800 lives. Australia acquired The Ashes in beating England by 7 runs at the Oval, 1882.

- ### SEPTEMBER
- 7 Susan Ferrier, Scottish novelist, born, 1782.
 - 16 Edward Bouverie Pusey, divine, died, 1882.
 - 19 John Wroe, founder of the Christian Israelites, born, 1782.
 - 20 Richard Lower, poet, born, 1782.
 - 29 George Buchanan, historian, died, 1582.

- ### OCTOBER
- 1582 William Juxon, Archbishop of Canterbury, born.
 - 1682 MacFlecknoe by John Dryden, published.
 - 4 St. Theresa of Avila, Spanish nun, died, 1582.
 - 5 Spain and Portugal became the first countries to adopt the Gregorian calendar, this day becoming October 15, 1582.
 - 6 Karol Szymanowski, Polish composer, born, 1882.
 - 8 Harold Armand Moody, founder of the League of Coloured Peoples, born, 1882.
 - 14 Eamon De Valera, President of the Irish Republic, born, 1882.
 - 19 Sir Thomas Browne, physician and writer, died, 1682.
 - 24 Dame Sybil Thorndike, actress, born, 1882.
 - 27 Niccolò Paganini, Italian violinist, born, 1782.



- ### NOVEMBER
- 9 Percy Wyndham Lewis, writer and painter, born, 1882.
 - 18 Jacques Maritain, French philosopher, born, 1882.
 - 21 Claude Lorrain, French Painter, died, 1582.

- ### DECEMBER
- Two on a Tower by Thomas Hardy was published, 1882.
 - 3 Archibald Campbell Tait, Archbishop of Canterbury, died, 1882.
 - 4 The Law Courts, Strand, London. Designed by George Street, opened, 1882.
 - 5 Martin van Buren, 8th President of the USA, born, 1782.
 - 6 Jen Charles Blane, French socialist, died, 1882. Anthony Trollope, novelist, died, 1882.
 - 9 Joaquin Turina, Spanish composer, born, 1882.
 - 11 Max Born, German physicist, born, 1882. Llewellyn AB Gruffydd, Prince of Wales, killed in battle, 1282.
 - 16 Zoltan Kodaly, Hungarian composer, born, 1882. Sir Jack Hobbs, cricketer, born, 1882.
 - 23 James Gibbs, Scottish architect, born, 1682.
 - 28 Sir Arthur Eddington, astrophysicist, born, 1882.

Singapore holds 10 for plotting

From David Watts, Singapore, Jan 10

The Singapore authorities have arrested 10 members of an alleged clandestine group suspected of planning to overthrow the Government by force, according to an official announcement.

All 10 have been held under the Internal Security Act, which provides for indefinite detention without trial. The group, which includes members of the opposition Workers' Party, had allegedly planned to solicit support from foreign powers including manpower and finance.

The Workers' Party won a by-election at the end of October to break the People's Action Party's monopoly on the Singapore Parliament for the first time for 16 years. The group is said to be led by Mr. Zatul Abidin bin Muhammad Shah.

Those arrested belong to a group called the Organisasi Pembekasan Rakyat Singapura or the People's Liberation Organization of Singapore, according to the Government announcement.

At least two of them were arrested after they tried to distribute pamphlets containing alleged seditious statements during a Muslim rally at the Singapore National Stadium on Saturday, to mark the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.

The Government statement said that to achieve its objective, the group planned to create communal unrest by distributing pamphlets and carrying out acts of arson.

China steps cautiously in Hongkong

Hongkong, Jan 10 — Chinese leaders are studying the problem of Hongkong's lease to Britain, but do not wish to take any steps harmful to the colony, Mr. Humphrey Atkins, the Deputy Foreign Secretary said here today.

Speaking after a four-day visit to China, Mr. Atkins said Chinese leaders recognized the need to solve the issue of the lease, which expires in 1997 leaving most of Hongkong's territory under Chinese rule.

"Now, it is very clear to me that they are addressing their minds to this problem and they recognize that it is not possible simply for everybody to do nothing," he said.

Chinese leaders would consider the economic advantages of Hongkong as a financial centre in deciding its future. "They did, in fact, say that the prosperity of Hongkong must not be damaged and that they would not want to do anything like that," he said. He later flew to Seoul, for a four-day visit. —AP.

□ The Hongkong authorities have been warned by 120 newly-arrived refugees from Vietnam that a fresh exodus can be expected when the weather improves (Richard Hughes writes).

The new arrivals, mostly young Vietnamese, who caused surprise by their arrival last week, told Hongkong camp authorities that living conditions in North and South Vietnam were becoming worse. "Nine out of 10 want to leave," one refugee from North Vietnam said.

Asked about this, Bishop Ding said the facts would be made clear at the trial. He added: "I don't think we have the right to assume that no religious person may be put in jail."

Dr Runcie said in a prepared statement that Chinese Christians should be free to work out their own form of "Christianity with a Chinese face". He referred to the persecution of believers in the Cultural Revolution as "painful and difficult".

Protestants in China, including Anglicans, have been amalgamated into a Christian Council, which proclaims the ideals of "self-government, self-support and self-propagation". Only some minor denominations have refused to join.

There was no doubt about the piety of the people attending today's service. The majority were elderly women. But there was a fair sprinkling of men and several score young people.

1,000 at a Nanjing Matins

Runcie on bridges and Bibles

From David Bonavia, Nanjing, Jan 10

A Chinese Christian woman wiped tears from her eyes here when Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, talked of the role of the church as a bridge among nations. He was speaking at a tea party held in his honour yesterday.

During a two-day visit, originally intended to be a private one, he visited the local seminary, went sight-seeing, and had talks with Bishop Ding Guangxun of the diocese of Nanjing. After celebrating holy communion privately at the guest-house here, Dr Runcie left for Hongkong too early to attend matins, which was conducted by a Chinese woman pastor before a packed congregation of about a thousand people.

Services are also held on Saturdays to meet public demand and to accommodate Christians who have to work on Sundays.

At the tea party Dr Runcie and his party were entertained by a Chinese girl playing the accordion, a

Roger Boyes sends his first report from Warsaw since censorship was lifted

Disentangling the cold truth about Poland's internees

What is the truth about internment in Poland? What has happened to the thousands of people picked up by the police since the introduction of martial law a month ago? Nudged into a response by the defection of Polish ambassadors who strongly criticized the internment policy — the government has issued a crop of facts and figures.

Unfortunately these facts and figures do not tally with estimates made by western embassies or the Church. How is one to establish the truth in a country that does not allow foreign correspondents to leave the capital, that has cut off the telephone system and makes the spreading of "false information" a criminal offence punishable by up to eight years imprisonment? The answer seems to be that people stop asking questions like "what is true?" at least in public — and choose instead to believe even the wildest rumour rather than the government version.

Here are two versions of what is happening. The first, from Poles, most of whom are either Solidarity activists or people fundamentally in sympathy with the aims of Solidarity and the political reform movement as a whole.

The government declares that there are "only" 5,069 internees, some of whom are being released.

They are, the government says, kept in basically good conditions and allowed food parcels and visits from their families; work in their camps is voluntary and its only objective, as Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, put it recently, is to "break up the monotony of the day". There is no question, he said, of anybody being accommodated in tents or in the open.

Some internees are free to go after signing a document saying they will "discontinue this participation in anti-socialist activities". The declaration is thus partially an admission of guilt and violation of its terms could theoretically lead to re-arrest — for anti-socialist activities — and formal charges.

The diplomatic and Church view differs fundamentally from this line. At least two embassies, assisted by rare consular trips to the provinces, have come to the conclusion that some 15,000 people are being detained. This, they say, is a conservative estimate and is a stable figure, taking into account that while some people are being released, others are being arrested. The Church, which has taken over responsibility for feeding some of the internees, believes there are more than 15,000, though it has not given a figure.

The Polish episcopate has claimed that conditions in some of the camps are bad — many

cells are unheated (the temperature at the time of writing is minus 12 degrees Centigrade). The detainees are often inadequately clothed (a number were arrested in their pyjamas), conditions are crowded and little water is available. Two eyewitness accounts made available to me at least partially support this picture.

Before Christmas the Church had a further complaint: it had about 500 food parcels to deliver but the authorities had allowed the delivery of only about 50. The situation has eased somewhat since then and few complaints have been received through about food shortages — the internees are issued with meat coupons which are handed to relatives who can supply the food needed to supplement the iron rations. Some people are also being issued with clothing coupons but these are of only limited value because of shortages in the shops, with or without coupons.

The gulf between the two versions seems on the face of it to be irreconcilable but it is possible to explain at least some of the discrepancies. First, the government version accounts only for internees — that is people who have been rounded up, but not charged under martial law. The government spokesman more or less admits that conditions have been arrests over and above the

internments but seemed to indicate that the number was in the hundreds rather than the thousands.

But PAP, the official news agency, daily reports the arrest of strike organizers and Solidarity activists, giving the impression that a large number of people are involved. It is thus conceivable that the diplomatic estimate of 15,000 includes internees, those detained pending investigation into specific charges and those arrested and formally charged.

Second, it is clear that internees are being held in widely different conditions. Those for intellectuals and Solidarity leaders seem quite reasonable. The Solidarity leaders held at Strzebielisk, near Gdynia, are allowed one visit a month and live in a room; but they are in good spirits, argue constantly about the future of the movement and are said to have demoralized four

warders so profoundly that they have requested transfers. Mr Lech Walesa is said to be under house arrest outside Warsaw; he has access to colour television and is regularly visited by a priest.

Other internees, however, are being treated abysmally, as many priests have testified. It is impossible to confirm stories of cold water being poured over prisoners but some internees were certainly beaten up when arrested and many need warm clothing. Mr Urban conceded at a recent news conference that "some internees may have forgotten to bring clothing". The circumstances of their arrests, of course, may not have been conducive to packing bags.

Conditions then may be tolerable for some and bad for others. Without leaning too far towards the government position, it is clear that there has been a degree of exaggeration in word-of-mouth

descriptions of internees' conditions. The government, however, has brought this down on itself. A wife whose husband does not arrive home, would normally be calling the weather to find the transport system at best haphazard, petrol in short supply. But without a telephone, relatives assume the worst and pass their fears on to their neighbours. By the time the husband safely arrives, having perhaps been caught in a snow-drift, he has already become a statistic on the rumour chain.

But, in the absence of credible, checkable information, rumour fills the news vacuum, that is how figures like 50,000 — the most dramatic estimate of internees Poles — come into being. Most western military experts contend that the army and the militia are still too stretched to guard and feed that number. Yet even if the true figure is closer to

Solidarity activists in a detention centre near Warsaw. For them conditions are reasonable, but not for thousands of others

15,000 or 5,000, the Polish government still has a case to answer. That is a lot of people to hold without trial.

The Military Council clearly believe that some suppression of human rights is a necessary precondition of stamping out potential political opposition, restoring "law and order" and putting the economy back on its feet. But the immediate western response has shown that it stands to lose more than it gains by keeping these people under lock and key. It was upset by the Vatican attack on the internment policy and seriously worried when Henryk Jablonski, General Secretary of the West German Foreign Ministry, made exactly the same criticisms. Poland needs West Germany at the moment for Bonn is the key to maintaining a dialogue with its western creditors and keeping the doors open to West Europe at a time when the US administration is leaning on Moscow and Warsaw.

The Council may be tempted to justify its round-up by staging show trials and charging the Solidarity leaders with organizing a coup attempt, the standard account of events in the official media. But Solidarity at its high point consisted of 10 million members, only a fraction of whom are interned: the Council needs a way of talking these people into returning to work.

Show trials will not achieve that. Only a quiet admission that internment was ill judged, a recognition that even the army has its limitations, and the release of the five or 15 or 50 thousand will convince the Polish people that it is possible to talk to the Council and not just curse it.

Dear commuter . . .

The public will be aware from media coverage that Aslef has recently instituted industrial action, having instructed its members on British Rail to refuse to work voluntary overtime and rest days and not to book on for duty on January 13 and 14. However, because of many misleading reports which have been circulated, I feel, as general secretary of the Society, that in the light of the important issues at stake, there is a need to set the record straight. Let me therefore present the facts.



An open letter from Ray Buckton, general secretary of Aslef

Negotiations on the 1981 pay round for railwaymen were due to be completed in time for new rates of pay to be introduced as from April 1981. The offer then made by the British Railways Board to the three railway trade unions was refused as totally unacceptable; after a breakdown of negotiations at the Railway Staff National Council, the industry's senior negotiating body, all the unions decided that the pay claims should be referred to the industry's independent arbitration body (the Railway Staff National Tribunal), which sat on June 8, 1981, under the chairmanship of Lord McCarthy.

The outcome was an award by the tribunal for the payment of pay of railwaymen/women to be raised by 8 per cent from April 20, 1981, with a further increase of 3 per cent from August 1, 1981. All three unions accepted the arbitrator's findings, although the award was substantially lower than the claims submitted, but the British Railways Board took the unprecedented step of stating that they were not prepared to introduce the pay recommendations.

Subsequently, following discussions between representatives of the Board and the unions at the Railway Staff National Council on August 2, 1981, it was decided that, in the light of the Board's intransigence, industrial action should be instituted.

After this decision, the Advisory, Conciliation and

Arbitration Service intervened. Prolonged discussions in mid-August between all the parties concerned resulted in two separate agreements on pay and on productivity.

The agreement on pay was in line with the award of the national tribunal: an 8 per cent increase from April 20 and a further 3 per cent from August 1981. This agreement was specific and unconditional, and this is supported by the fact that the British Railways Board later issued a circular instructing how the new rates of pay should be implemented; for instance, circular letter No 121 dated September, 1981, which informed staff of the arrangements for the payment of the 3 per cent from January 1982 (backdated to August, 1981).

A separate understanding on productivity provided for discussions to be resumed within the railway negotiation machinery, which for footplate staff is the locomotive section of the Railway Staff Joint Council. This is the accepted method by which both management and unions may pursue to a higher level their disagreements.

Aslef have attempted to use this procedure to discuss the issue with railway management, but the BR Board

have consistently refused to use this machinery. Instead it has unscrupulously tried to bind the two separate issues together, despite the Acas agreement.

Recent developments in the dispute are that on December 23 the BR Board told the rail unions that because it considered there had not been sufficient progress on certain productivity matters, it would not pay footplate staff the agreed 3 per cent increase. This has resulted in the present situation.

The Board's totally unprecedented move to dishonour the settlement gave Aslef no option but to take action to safeguard its members' interests.

The Board's action was, to say the least, disreputable and brings into question the validity of the industry's negotiating machinery, which, having followed the stated procedures and failing to reach agreement, resorted to its claims for independent arbitration and conciliation.

The BR Board has unilaterally reneged on an agreement, using as a pretext for its action Aslef's alleged refusal to make progress on productivity, particularly over the issue of flexible rostering, which would bring about the elimination of a guaranteed eight-hour day, a principle enjoyed by most British workers.

Finally, let me state that Aslef is willing to enter into constructive talks at any time to end this dispute. I have written this letter to some length so that you may have a better understanding of the issues which divide Aslef and the BR Board. There is a clear attempt to blackmail Aslef into agreeing to arrangements which would not be acceptable to its membership or indeed to most British workers.

I am therefore sorry for any inconvenience suffered by commuters, though I feel sure that having considered what has been said in this letter, there will be a better understanding of the issues. Yours sincerely, Ray Buckton

A married man of 29 raped the 15-year-old who was baby-sitting for him. His good record and position in the community persuaded the judge to suspend his sentence.

The appeal court took a different view. The judge had considered only the interests of the accused; he had neglected the impact of the experience on the girl, and the duty of the court to deter others. An effective sentence of three years imprisonment was substituted.

This case was tried in Ontario, in England the original sentence would stand. Almost every decision which an English judge makes is subject to appellate review, with one exception. An excessively lenient sentence, which fails to reflect the gravity of the offence, is challenged in a higher court.

The only appeal is to public opinion, demonstrated in the streets and demands for the removal of the judge take place of the dispassionate analysis of the facts and the reasons for the judge's decision which a review in a higher court would provide.

The case for a change is demonstrated not merely by those apparently lenient sentences which capture the attention of the public and which, left unexplained, weaken confidence in the legal system — a fine in a case of rape, a suspended sentence in a tax fraud involving millions, or relatively short terms of imprisonment for the manslaughter of a young man whose unconscious body was put in a river.

Many less well-known cases daily illustrate the deficiency of the law. The most popular argument (with appeals in sentence appeals is desperately the appellant complains, not that his sentence is too severe by general standards, but that his co-defendant has received an unusually lenient sentence, and the difference in their treatment is injustice. There is no satisfactory answer — the appeal court can correct one disparity only by creating another.

After the rape fine, the case for changing the system

by David Thomas

Another common problem is the dangerously unstable offender who has received a determinate sentence: from which he will be released by a fixed date, rather than the indefinite sentence which would have authorized his detention until he can safely be discharged. There is no way such a sentence can be corrected.

Why is legal opinion generally so firmly against the idea of a prosecution appeal on sentence? None of the arguments against the proposal stands up to close analysis.

● A prosecution appeal on sentence would be a form of double jeopardy. This is unconvincing — a prosecution appeal from a jury's verdict of not guilty would be a different matter.

● A prosecution appeal would subject the defendant to a further period of anxiety and stress after his trial is over. This is true, but the defendant is not the only one with a legitimate interest in the outcome of the case. The present system leaves the grievances of the victim and the general public unresolved indefinitely.

● Why should it matter if a few excessively lenient sentences are passed, when so many crimes go undetected? This misses the point: the sentence of a court is a formal value judgement on the conduct in question, which may set standards or affect attitudes throughout the community.

● The prosecution has no responsibility in sentencing and, therefore, it would be inconsistent to allow the prosecution to appeal. This is the least persuasive argument of all, confusing as it does the role of the advocate for the prosecution in court with the responsibility of the prosecuting authority. Consider, for the Crown, does make submissions on sentence, but the whole purpose of a criminal prosecution is to secure the imposition of a sentence on the alleged offender. At every stage in the process, the choice of charge, the choice of mode of trial — decisions made by the

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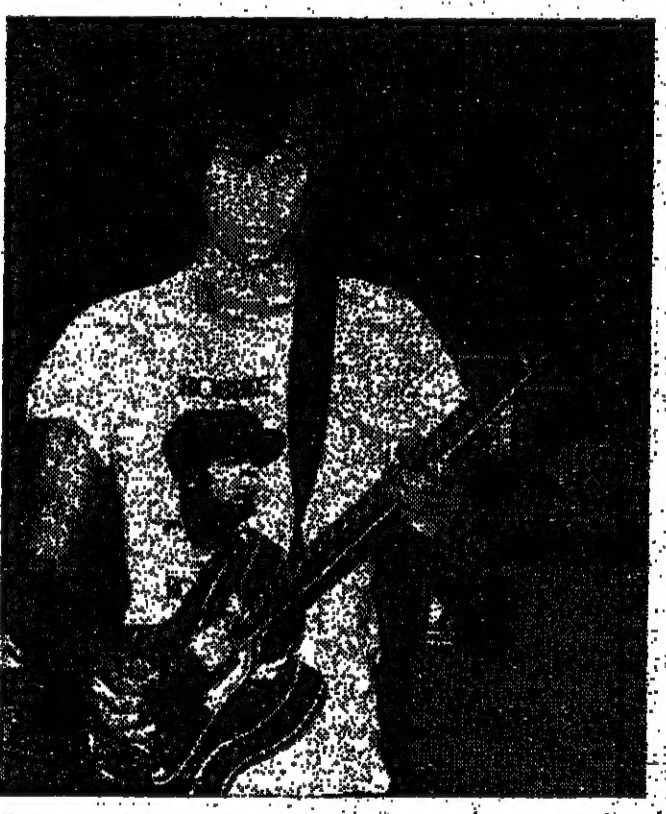
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Pop singer Keith Richard . . . his case helped set a legal precedent.

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Streisand tipped to star in The White Hotel

Mr D. M. Thomas, whose admirable novel *The White Hotel*, was one of the runners-up in last year's Booker Prize competition, is off to the United States tomorrow for a six-month spell teaching "creative writing" and modern British poetry and fiction at the American University in Washington DC. Over the weekend he later told me that apart from taking the opportunity to promote the American sales of his book, which goes into paperback in March, he also hopes to talk to multi-millionaire land developer turned film producer, Keith Barish, who has bought the film rights to *The White Hotel*.

Barish produced *Endless Love* which was directed by Zeffirelli and starred Brooke Shields, and also owns the rights to William Styron's *Sophie's Choice*, in which Meryl Streep will play Sophie. Thomas tells me that there is a persistent and, he hopes, "well-founded" rumour that Barish Streisand will play the role of his book's heroine, Lisa Erdman, a half-Jewish opera singer. "I believe that Miss Streisand got very interested about the possibility of playing the role very early on," he said. "She appears to have seen it as a new development for her."

Science practical
I have now had quite a few letters from distinguished academics, and one from a Bishop, with their

THE TIMES DIARY

Capitalizing on its central role in reporting the Polish crisis, the Government is submitting a multi-million pound plan for revitalizing its monitoring service of foreign broadcasts. The service, based at a millionaire's converted mansion at Caversham in deepest Berkshire, has undergone little change since it was founded there early in the second world war. It is funded directly by the Foreign Office which like the BBC newsrooms, has immediate access to its round-the-clock transcripts of

radio output in sensitive parts of the world. Some of its material is also sold commercially to a range of clients from the BBC to the Ministry of Defence, to the intelligence and television networks. Since the introduction of martial law in Poland, Monitoring has gained 16 new clients.

Yet partly due to its remoteness, the service has long been treated as a poor relation by its London paymasters. The new BBC proposals, which will be put before the Foreign Office in the autumn, due to modernize the system and convert it to an electronic form of distribution.

views about practical insights achieved by the social sciences, and I hope to give space to several of them during the week. For today, however, I bring you a mini-scoop what is described as "a first tawny" from within the Social Science Research Council's own office.

This is not a corporate entry, as it were, from the council itself but I gather that there has been some discussion in the SSRC office among staff and academics on how social science can be measured within its constraints.

● A child care, the work of John Bowlby, consultant psychiatrist at the Tavistock Clinic or 25 years, which has demonstrated the importance of the very early years of child care. ● In economics, W. E. G. Salter's work on the relation between

capital investment and productivity improvement in industry showed that rapidly growing industries would have a younger average vintage of capital equipment, lower costs per unit, and higher profitability. An important aspect of this finding was that wages do not necessarily increase proportionately with productivity, industry by industry.

● Christopher Foster (LSE) and Michael Beasley (London Business School), in their important work of cost benefit analysis in transport investment, helped to lay the foundation for the investment in road improvement in this country over the last decades.

● As for getting it right five years ago Birbeck College's Professor Richard Portes (whose theoretical and econometric re-

search on the centrally planned economies has been financed by SSRC) foresaw the economic and political problems arising from heavy East European borrowing in the West, writing in 1977 that "the economic strategy chosen (by Poland) in 1971-72 is clearly compromised, and with it Poland's ability to avert debt defaulting by the end of the decade". His subsequent analysis of the Polish crisis (published by Chatham House a year ago) has significantly influenced West European policy.

I am sure that many people are simply unaware of many of these practical achievements of the social sciences and hope that, despite the relatively restricted space at my disposal, a few prejudicial may be overturned by these few paragraphs.

Quiz answers

1. Mike Egan, who ran up on to the pitch during the England v Australia rugby match, lay down a penalty.
2. At a meeting of the NEC last week the CAT and TUC called for retention of the economy.
3. The Polish authorities put hundreds of thousands of refugees on trial for corruption.
4. The Polish authorities put hundreds of thousands of refugees on trial for corruption.
5. A Polish pamphlet over the proposed reduction of shipping services blocked the Polish shipping lobby.
6. David Pridemore and John Brown were sentenced to "hard labour" to sort out Liverpool's garbage over the district of Leas.
7. Lord Greville's Associated Communications Corporation is facing a battle with shareholders over compensation to be paid to the dismissed managing director.
8. The first British-built Talbot Marston was completed at Coventry last Monday.

Candice amplifies

Despite being stranded in the snow near Bedford, rescued, having to break into my country house because the locks had frozen, and then having to dig my car out of the drift yesterday, the most disconcerting part of the weekend was, without doubt, lunch with Candice Bergen and Placido Domingo.

Close up, both these stars are even more shimmering than a field of virgin snow — warmer, too. By mutual agreement we didn't talk about Miss Bergen's new film, *Rich and Famous*, which opens this week and in which she stars with Jacqueline Bisset. Miss Bergen (who is also, of course, Mrs Louis Malle) had spent the week talking about the film with lesser mortals and had had enough. Once again my pairings of two quite different stars was fortuitous — they had been dying to meet one another for ages — so I just sat back, tucked into the Mirabelle's mouth-watering *gnocchi*, and listened.

Miss Bergen has no films on the horizon — or even one at Living on Central Park South, in New York, she is enjoying her (relatively) new marriage and trying to finish a book about her father, Edgar Bergen, the famous ventriloquist. The research for this has made her something of an expert on vaudeville and, in between oysters, she gave me the run-down on crooning. I didn't know, for instance, that this particular type of singing began because in America the early microphones were very shaky affairs and too many loud or high

notes ruined them. Apparently, at one point singers even put impediments over the microphones when using them to help protect the delicate instrument from the strident voices. What with the masking effect of the shades and the low voices, there was no alternative to crooning.

Her father's wooden sidekick, who was called Charley McCarthy, became a household name in America and Miss Bergen got used to being asked if she was wooden too. Before long, though, she had her rigour, line from Joseph Lougher's *Peasants*: "Children need models rather than critics". Good for her.

Domingo, after inviting us all to see him and Renata Scott in *La Bohème* at the Met in February, as well as his first night in *The Tales of Hoffman* at Covent Garden a week today, told us about his film plans: He is to star opposite Julie Andrews in



A meeting of voices: Candice Bergen and Placido Domingo

The Merry Widow later this year, though apparently Miss Andrews isn't too happy with the script at the moment and rumours will be made to turn it into a play about producing *The Merry Widow*.

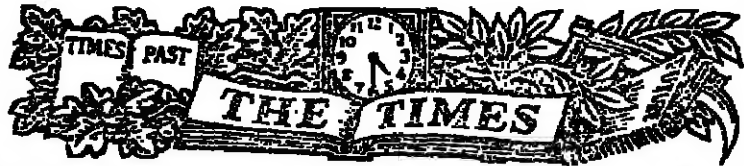
Domingo, who, unlike Miss Bergen (and myself for that matter), is fully booked until 1985, has carefully arranged to sing in his native Spain during the World Cup in the summer. He already has tickets for five games and so the talk naturally turned to soccer, then to American football, then to baseball.

Apparently Mr Domingo is one of the few opera stars to have performed at the New York Yankee stadium, where he tried to show them how to sing the American National anthem slowly. He says it can be sung in this way — then proceeded to demonstrate. You can guess what happened: a microphone cleverly hidden in the lamppost shattered or all left rather hurriedly. Mr Domingo has a rehearsal, Miss Bergen went off to the BBC and I had my appointment with a Gloucestershire snowdrift.

Soft cell

David Wolfe, the wine writer, has sent me these instructions which he found on a tube of Elnett Satin hairspray: "Spray from a distance of about 12 inches so as to ensure even distribution throughout the hair." He decided it must be for people who have had their brains washed and can't do a thing with them.

Peter Watson



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

WHO WILL APPEAL TO THE MINERS?

The ballot of the coal miners this week will, if it goes the wrong way, make the blizzards seem like a pretty snowstorm in a crystal. Stocks may be high and so may be the Government's and the public's determination to see it through. But there is no glossing the economic havoc. In the reports from the coalfields, and notably from our Labour Editor today, it seems that there may be little enthusiasm in striking for pay but a desire to support the union executive and to express hostility to the Government on general grounds.

A sense of this no doubt explains the thick blanket of silence that has fallen on the subject of pay, since Ministers may well feel that anything they have to say will be counterproductive. But other people who aspire to leadership have a responsibility to the national interest. Nobody can expect much from Mr Benn and his friends. The left of the Labour Party rubs its hands at the prospect of confrontation and a national breakdown. But there are no inhibitions on Mr Michael Foot, Mr Denis Healey, Mr Roy Hattersley, Mr James

Callaghan or Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr David Steel. It is a disturbing phenomenon of modern politics in Britain that party leaders have come to exult privately or publicly at the difficulties of the governing party even when they know the government is acting in the national interest. Conservative Central Office was gleeful at the winter of discontent though it was a national as well as a Labour disaster.

There is a simple appeal that can be made by men the miners trust. It is that every percentage point added to what is already offered represents thousands more on the dole and hardship for their fellow countrymen, especially the old. Coal miners are rightly at the top of the table for manual pay. They owe this in part to the successful productivity scheme which their new President warned them would be dangerous (which it has not been) and would not pay (which it has). But the present offer is eminently fair. It is far better than the private sector. It is far more than the country can bear or the coalfields as a whole justify. A cold strike or an excessive

wage settlement will simply make more pits uneconomic and put more mining jobs at risk. But self-interest, though it is a real argument, is not the one necessarily that can tell.

Miners live in isolated areas but historically they have always had a consciousness of their sense of community with other working people. Do they really want to punish everyone else? Is it the spirit of the Durham miners' gala that great power should be used to visit great hardship on millions of ordinary people? One does not underestimate the grievances of the past that can be exploited in the memory of the coalfields but miners as a body are a hardworking and sensible group who have shown a sense of responsibility to their fellow working people more often than they are credited. If the miners could be made to see the genuine nature of the issue, with all political bile removed, they would surely vote yes at this crucial time in Britain's painful and uncertain journey from slump to recovery. It is this appeal to their better instincts, as much as to self-interest, which ought to be made this week.

THE NEW INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The year 1982, as may well have escaped the attention of most readers, has been officially dubbed by the Government as the Year of Information Technology. It is not a particularly elegant slogan. Nor is it a particularly elucidating one. But it is an important time and one which the Government is right in pursuing as an exception to its normal distaste for industrial policy. Broadly, the phrase embraces everything from the home computer to satellite communications, such has been the rapidity of development already in but one area that nobody these days thinks anything of looking into Warsaw streets by means of a satellite picture or having his voice lobbed cleanly to Australia through outer space on the international telephone.

It is not surprising that the most eager advocates of information technology proclaim its importance as equal to that of the industrial revolution. That revolution saw a total change in the means of manufacture and this one is envisaged as seeing a total change in the means of organizing society and its knowledge, overthrowing the old need for centralized units and repetitive labour and substituting a new decentralized society with infinite leisure.

Heady stuff. And the most immediate reaction of British commentators is to say that the £80m which the British Government plans to spend over the next three years is not nearly enough, especially when compared with the sums being spent by the United States and Japan. This is not quite fair, nor is it the right point for advocacy.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the newly-appointed Minister for Information Technology, is one of the brightest young members of this Administration. The Department of Industry has rightly recognised certain key areas of potential excellence for support, including fibre optics in cable communication and satellites in international communication.

Those who would urge Britain to leap with one bound into the forefront of the technology overlook just how expensive it is and forget how British history is littered with brilliant innovation followed by feeble application. Prudent and solid development of someone else's brainchild can pay better dividends as Silicon Valley has learnt from the Japanese over the 64K chip. How difficult it is to compete world-wide has been demonstrated by ICL's own troubles. The investment of the National Enterprise Board into office systems has been far from uniformly successful. And there are still many who would doubt the ultimate success of two of the country's most recent initiatives, the Immos memory chip and the System-X electronic telephone enterprise.

Nor should all the exhortation be directed at Government. Trade union restrictions have set Britain back years in the application of computer-assisted printing. This is one of the few places in the world — including the Third World — where journalists and researchers are still denied direct access to the computer. And successive surveys have shown that British management is less aware than any of its colleagues in Europe of the importance of the era of

cheap micro-computing power in the office and in industrial processes. Much of what the government can do, and much of what it is trying to do with the propaganda campaign associated with Information Technology Year, is to push the message hard.

But there is something else the government can do. Where it does seem much less effective than its main competitors is in its willingness to use the full force of its machinery to back its beliefs. The French and Japanese will not only pick out areas of concentrated assistance, as the British are now doing, but will also do their best to ensure growth and success by directing public purchasing and combining bureaucracy behind the chosen enterprises. Despite the efforts of the Industry Department, our programme is still confused by the differing pulls of the Home Office, which controls the allocation of frequencies on the air, the Department of Education, the Treasury and other departments.

It is not easy to do all this, given EEC rules of open competition and the distaste of government for both home preference and public spending. But it should be the line it logically pursues. If the government really wishes to develop indigenous suppliers and users of new technology, it should embark now on a larger British Telecom investment in electronic switching, of tax and benefits, in a few more daring investments in communications and in information. Of course it will have some failures. But so did Watt, Newcomen, Hargreaves and Stephenson.

rather more effectively, at least in terms of seats won.

But Mr Steel became leader of a weakened band of Liberal MPs who may be reckoned among the most self-willed independents since the university seats were abolished by Clement Attlee's government. Today he has no more Liberals in the Commons than Clement Davis had in 1945-51. His answer is obvious: join anybody who will go or be pushed towards proportional representation to cash in on second choice votes.

Mr Steel belongs to the radical wing of the Liberal Party and stands halfway towards Fabian socialism. How that may be reconciled with historic Liberalism he still needs to explain. He is no intellectual or conscientious scruples about his pact committing Liberal support to the Callaghan-DMF government, on condition that he could disengage in good time to fight an independent general election.

Nor did he have difficulties in striking private and later public bargains with the Gang of Four, all of them (with important reservations about Mr Roy Jenkins) socialists who claim they are the true interpreters of socialism, according to constitutional writ. Mr Steel has been moving the Liberal Party closer to socialism ever since he became leader.

A large section of the party he leads, however, old or young, high or low, became or were born Liberals precisely because they want no truck with socialism. They might be called the Asquithian survivors, or the inheritors of the Asquithian tradition of Liberalism. Moreover, on sound Liberal principles, they have local autonomy and cannot be dictated to by an authoritarian leader, as recent troubles in Glasgow and other constituencies illustrate. Nationally, Mr Steel may propose; locally, autonomous associations, the first to come into being during the extension of the franchise in the nineteenth century, will continue to dispose. Mr Steel now says the

SDP can impose conditions that constitutionally are ultra vires for himself.

The Asquithians, who tend to be the long-serving and most loyal Liberals, have an affectionate memory for their party's history. They remember the split in the early 1920s, when Liberal leaders and rank and file went two ways — to the Conservatives and Labour. They remember 1931, when another split occurred. They remember how, under Clement Davis in 1945, the Liberal romp in the Commons divided six one way and six the other, with Lady Megan Lloyd-George leading the Fabian socialist group.

Meanwhile, they also remember, the Conservatives could count on nearly 30 National Liberal votes from MPs who masqueraded as L and C and I, or Frank Nat Lib. They formed an integral part of the Conservative Party, although for appearance's sake they had their own Chief Whip, Sir Herbert Butcher. When Harold Macmillan succeeded Eden as Prime Minister in January 1957, Sir Herbert was one of six back bench leaders consulted by Lord Salisbury, the principal kingmaker. Today, no Conservative fights under the Liberal label; National Liberalism is dead.

Historically, twentieth century conditions have meant near extinction for what Macaulay called the "grand old party", and there are still plenty of influential Liberals around who know their party history and profoundly suspect the deal with the SDP to which Mr Steel continues to try to commit them. The next logical move is not merely to choose a single leader (would he be the comparatively inexperienced Mr Steel?) but a joint bipartisan conference to settle policy and a coordinated general election manifesto. There is a lot of stuff for argument there. The troubles of the coalition are only just beginning, and not only Bill Rodgers will make sure that adversarial politics will be the name of the game.

Sentencing in rape cases

From Mr Jack Ashley, CH, MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South (Labour)

Sir, Your Legal Correspondent, Marcel Berins, reports (January 8) that I am pressing for the judge in the recent rape case to "increase the sentence under a rarely used provision of the Courts Act, 1971". He added that the section was occasionally brought into play when the judge made a legal slip in the sentence, but that it was not the intention of the section to substitute a prison sentence for a non-custodial sentence.

The fact is that I asked the Lord Chancellor to remind Judge Richards that under section 1(2) he, and only he, had the power to vary his decision within 28 days. The section (now consolidated) was designed to allow for rectifying mistakes in sentencing and it is up to the judge to decide whether or not there has been a mistake.

The judge was quoted in the press as referring inquiries to David Thomas's book, *Principles of Sentencing*. But in an old edition of the book the term "contributory negligence", which the judge used to justify a mere fine for rape, referred only to the length of sentence, and the later edition, which the judge used, has removed it. The author has assured me that there is nothing in his book which would support imposing a fine in a case of rape.

Judge Richards relied on an out-of-date legal text book. It is a misunderstanding of its contents. And he failed to appreciate that "contributory negligence" has no legal place in determining whether or not a rapist should be allowed to walk free. I shall be interested to see whether he acts, or fails to act, within the 28 days.

Yours faithfully,
JACK ASHLEY,
House of Commons.

From Mr R. G. Marshall-Andrews

Sir, Your otherwise excellent *Legal Correspondent* has written a sentence for rape passed by Judge Richards does not identify the main danger inherent in the judgment.

The judge's assumption that, in a civilised society, it is culpable folly for one person to trust the word of another is a dangerous and self-defeating ordinance. It fails to comprehend the fundamental principle that civilised societies are based upon mutual trust.

The more we inhibit our freedom of action through fear, the more the element of trust recedes, leaving the increasingly paranoid atmosphere of mutual suspicion and trepidation. Within such an atmosphere crime and self-seeking flourish at the expense of order and cheerful self-discipline.

Thus the victim in this case was not "asking for it": she was behaving as a normal, trusting human being, behaviour which benefits us all. It is the abuse of that trust which deserves, and should receive, stern justice.

Yours sincerely,
R. G. MARSHALL-ANDREWS,
2 Marchmont Gardens,
Richmond, Surrey.

From Mr Conrad Dehn, QC

Sir, The current furore over the non-custodial sentence imposed in a recent rape case highlights yet again the defect in our legal system that (except in limited circumstances) the Crown has no right to appeal against sentence.

If the Crown had such a right a sentence which was too lenient or otherwise inappropriate could be reviewed and altered by the Court of Appeal at a quarter of the Crown after, of course, hearing the parties. Oppressive conduct on the part of the Crown could be avoided by providing that such an appeal should be brought only with leave of the Court of Appeal.

The existence of such a right would not only allay public disquiet and indignation on particular cases but help to bring about greater uniformity in sentencing generally.

Yours faithfully,
CONRAD DEHN,
Fountain Court, Temple, EC4.
January 8.

Detained Pole

From Mr Kevin R. Grant

Sir, In your Christmas Eve threnody for justice you gazed all round the world before concluding that "concern for one individual life is the essential starting point for concern about many".

Acting on this principle may I appeal through your columns for the release of one Polish intellectual, Professor Wladislaw Bartoszewski?

This great patriot was imprisoned by the Nazis in Auschwitz and afterwards by the communists in the Gulag. He is Professor of Modern History in Lublin University. He was decorated by Israel as Righteous among the Nations for his help to Jews during the German occupation.

Professor Bartoszewski broadcast extensively on the Polish uprising against the Nazis on Warsaw Radio, Programme 3 during the summer months. He was seen on Polish television screens at 10.30 pm on Saturday, December 12, where he was taking part in the first Polish Cultural Congress since the war. Within hours he was "detained and isolated", his name being included in a radio listing.

General Jaruzelski could find no better means of demonstrating his good faith to an attentive world than by releasing Professor Bartoszewski to travel to the West. Avoval is worthless; evidence alone will suffice.

Yours sincerely,
KEVIN R. GRANT,
27 St John's Road,
Sidcup, Kent.

Troubled journey for London Transport

From Councillor Robert Vigers

Sir, As a local politician whose quality and lack of sophistication have so distressed Sir Richard Way (January 4), I would not presume to share his omniscience as to the intentions of the members of Parliament who debated the Act of 1963.

But, with Lord Plummer (then Mr Desmond Plummer, Leader of the council), I was responsible for the detailed negotiations with Mrs Barbara Castle and Mr Richard Marsh on the terms for the reorganisation announced by the Minister of Transport on July 2, 1968, and can be confident as to the intentions of the council and of the minister at that time.

In a speech to the council on July 9, 1968, Mr Desmond Plummer said: "Our objective in all negotiations has been to secure a financial settlement which would adequately protect the ratepayers because our first duty is to them at all times. We must be sure before we take over these services that London Transport is on a sound financial footing, making a profit and thus completely self-supporting so that the council would not be called upon to clear off debts."

And as to the Government, Mr Plummer added: "The Minister has personally assured me that the council's requirements will be made clearly visible on transfer."

These objectives were fulfilled so well that by the end of 1973 a revenue surplus of £8.5m had accrued.

The break came in approving the budget for 1974, when the council resolved that "having regard to the constraints (on fares) imposed by the Price and Pay Code... the council will make a revenue grant in 1974 of up to £5m to enable the Executive to balance its revenue account in that year."

This deficit budgeting in accordance with the policies of the incoming Labour Administration at County Hall was conveniently justified by the Government's requirements under the statutory Price and Pay Code, which prevented fares increases.

A revenue grant was then considered inevitable, and one may hazard a guess that the House of Lords would have found it reasonable in these circumstances to authorise the 1969 Act.

In later years price control ended, but the habit of deficit budgeting had become endemic and its legality went unquestioned and unchallenged, so long as the burden on the ratepayers remained small. The Transport Administration Act, 1977, aimed to restore viability but, in the event, failed to do so.

The financial resources of local government are not capable of sustaining massive transport subsidy. As a Conservative I question whether massive subsidy is either necessary or desirable, but so long as this remains a political issue — as it will in the foreseeable future — then I agree with Sir Richard Way that control must revert to central government. His alternative proposal for a regional PTA

(Passenger Transport Authority) is not practical for London.

The experiment to give Londoners control, because of political extremists, failed. The concept of strategic planning and transportation authority has for these and other reasons, alas, collapsed and the council in its present form should be dissolved.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT VIGERS,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1,
January 6.

From Professor Alan Day

Sir, Your correspondents' discussions of London Transport fail to consider the kind of solution to the capital's public transport which I believe to be the most attractive. That would be to end London Transport's monopoly and to allow open competition in the provision of bus services. Advantage could thereby be taken of the flexibility and efficiency of small-scale enterprises, involving relatively small capital resources, so that the firms which give the consumer what he wants are those most likely to succeed.

The successful liberalization of long-distance coaches confirms the view that the arguments deployed in the late twenties and early thirties for administrative integration and tight control of passenger road transport are now irrelevant and have long been harmful to the interests of consumers.

An end to London Transport's monopoly would be perfectly consistent with subsidies to any specific services which are judged to be particularly desirable on social grounds. There are some excellent arguments for public bus subsidies — but not for blanket assistance to inefficient monopolies.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN DAY,
The London School of Economics and Political Science (University of London),
Houghton Street, WC2,
January 5.

From Mr S. P. N. Rainey

Sir, Mr Monty Moss's letter (December 31) surely misses the point. The one thing that does make sense in the "Fares Fair" system is the belated but urgently needed introduction of a "zonal" fare structure for London.

New York, Paris, Brussels, Zurich, to cite at random, all have zone systems for fares and have found that they are simpler for passengers to use, produce fewer queues at ticket offices and machines, thereby increasing efficiency, and are less labour-intensive to operate. Why should London be different?

As for Mr Moss's nightmare vision of people joyriding "all day long if they wish", this is as fantastic as it is indicative of Mr Moss's evident unfamiliarity with London Transport and its users.

Yours etc,
SIMON P. N. RAINEY,
6 Maresfield Gardens, NW3,
January 4.

Following the plough

From Mr J. W. Skillington

Sir, Monday, January 11, is Plough Monday ("next after Twelfth day be past") when groups of ploughboys, and others, went round the villages and small towns giving their play and giving it while ploughboys lamed, until after the winter. The latter, indeed, says: "My head is made of iron; my body's made of steel!"

It is, I think, reasonably certain that this play, now from the English countryside, is pre-Christian and indeed pre-historic. For centuries it has been kept basically in its original form and handed down by word of mouth. It is the folk play, and its age is numbered not in hundreds but in thousands of years.

It is probably a rite which stimulated the beginnings of Greek tragedy. Indeed one of the myths of Dionysus is that he introduced the plough. Then the play, in the course of time, went underground among the common people and was generally ignored by those in higher positions.

I sometime imagine a Victorian scholar, say a local clergyman, speculating in his study on the origins of drama and the customs and beliefs of antiquity, when the ploughboys arrive at his kitchen door and ask: "Would you like to see our play?"

The gentleman gives the accustomed gift and politely refuses, little knowing that he has turned down the opportunity of seeing a ceremony of universal significance, echoing down the centuries from the dark backward and abyss of time: older than Rome, older than Greece, older than Dionysus.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. SKILLINGTON,
20 Morley Street,
Kettering,
Northamptonshire.

Notwithstanding

From Mr E. N. Houlton

Sir, Mr F. A. Lawton writes today (January 6) that in 1685 "the accused, a certain Mr Titus Oates, was permitted to address the court seated" and that "the trial judge was Jeffreys".

This is quite correct. *State Trials*, vol. 4, 1777, records: "The Oath of Allegiance... I pray I may have some Convenience for the managing my own Trial."

(Mr. "Sir George Jeffreys")... I pray, let him sit down there within the Bar, and let him have some Convenience for his Papers.

Yours faithfully,
E. N. HOULTON,
15 Rylands Grove,
Bingley Road,
Heaton,
Bradford,
January 6.

Reducing flood hazards

From Mr Richard Grove and Mr Chris Rose

Sir, It is unfortunate that the solution suggested by Dr Penning-Roswell (January 8) to reduce flood hazards in Yorkshire may actually make the problem worse.

He proposes that funding of farmland drainage should be increased. But the fact is that over the last 30 years the rate of farmland drainage nationally has already increased sixfold to a cost today of around £23m a year. In Yorkshire this may well have increased the rate of water run off into the rivers during flood peaks.

Moreover, meadows and washlands which once acted as safety valves during flood periods have been embanked and reclaimed for arable use. Alteration and plantation of upland catchments has had a similar effect.

It is well known that this process has impoverished our landscape and eliminated many wildlife habitats. It now appears that it may also have contributed to the disastrous flooding we have seen in the last week. Indeed we now fear that similar flooding may occur in Lincolnshire as a result of unusually effective drainage upstream.

Ministry of Agriculture statistics make it clear that investment by the Yorkshire Water Authority and its predecessors has already been generous. It is surely preferable that, if there is to be flooding, it should be on farmland rather than in urban areas such as York and Selby.

The narrow basis of inland drainage investment needs to be re-examined. Much increased spending on field draining and rural embanking, as recommended by Dr Penning-Roswell, will not always reduce the impact of peak floods. Instead, it may well make the effects of floods in urban areas more extreme.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GROVE, Editor, *Ecos*,
CHRIS ROSE, General Secretary,
British Association of Nature Conservationists,
As from: Darwin College,
Cambridge,
January 8.

Music's death

From Mr Hans Keller

Sir, Delusion need not be invalidated, merely diagnosed. "The day the music died" by Anthony Burgess (December 29) removes, amongst other geniuses, what is perhaps humanity's greatest mind altogether from the music lover's underpinning. Beethoven.

Musical incompetence and incomprehension as well as sheer ignorance are the cornerstones of an essay whose publication in *The Times* we musicians fail to understand: replacing fact with fantasy, it can only make sense to those similarly afflicted.

Yours sincerely,
HANS KELLER,
3 Froggall Gardens, NW3,
December 30.

From Mr Derek Walters

Sir, The music colleges of today are attended by students whose grandfathers were not yet born when Weber wrote his *Five Orchestral Pieces*. Yet still the number of non-tonal compositions which have achieved popular appeal is not long enough to be counted on one finger.

Yours truly,
DEREK WALTERS,
18 Victoria Crescent,
Tottenham, N15,
January 5.

Royal Family duties

From Mr T. C. M. O'Donovan

Sir, I have again carried out a survey of the duties performed by the Royal Family during 1981, as reported in your Court Circular.

	1980	1981	1982
The Queen	102	99	5
The Queen Mother	48	28	18
Princess Anne	16	21	18
Princess Alexandra	10	16	3
Princess Margaret	10	16	3
Princess Alice	10	16	3
Princess Louise	10	16	3
Princess Elizabeth	10	16	3
Princess Victoria	10	16	3
Princess Marina	10	16	3
Princess Sophia	10	16	3
Princess Alice	10	16	3
Princess Louise	10	16	3
Princess Elizabeth	10	16	3
Princess Victoria	10	16	3
Princess Marina	10	16	3
Princess Sophia	10	16	3
Princess Alice	10	16	3
Princess Louise	10	16	3
Princess Elizabeth	10	16	3
Princess Victoria	10	16	3
Princess Marina	10	16	3
Princess Sophia	10	16	3
Princess Alice	10	16	3
Princess Louise	10	16	3
Princess Elizabeth	10	16	3
Princess Victoria	10	16	3
Princess Marina	10	16	3
Princess Sophia	10	16	3
Princess Alice	10	16	3
Princess Louise	10	16	3
Princess Elizabeth	10	16	3
Princess Victoria	10	16	3
Princess Marina	10	16	3
Princess Sophia	10	16	3
Princess Alice	10	16	3
Princess Louise	10	16	3
Princess Elizabeth	10	16	3
Princess Victoria	10	16	3
Princess Marina	10	16	3
Princess Sophia	10	16	3
Princess Alice	10	16	3
Princess Louise	10	16	3
Princess Elizabeth	10	16	3
Princess Victoria	10	16	3
Princess Marina	10	16	3
Princess Sophia	10	16	3
Princess Alice	10	16	3
Princess Louise	10	16	3
Princess Elizabeth	10	16	3
Princess Victoria	10	16	3
Princess Marina	10	16	3
Princess Sophia	10	16	3
Princess Alice	10	16	3
Princess Louise	10	16	3
Princess Elizabeth	10	16	3
Princess Victoria	10	16	3
Princess Marina	10	16	3
Princess Sophia	10	16	3
Princess Alice	10		

THE ARTS

Television

'Omnibus' driven in the wrong direction

The great difficulty about aiming at everybody is that you can end up by hitting nobody. The two fundamental questions in communication must surely be: What am I trying to say? and, should the answer appear worthy of promulgation, Who am I talking to? I do not think Omnibus (BBC 1), which might do well not to take its title too seriously, has asked itself either.

Last night it made a tentative, almost timorous start, with Barry Norman, having possibly felt over-comfortable talking about films, looking extremely ill at ease with his metamorphosis, not even appearing to have much faith in his quips, suspecting perhaps they belonged somewhere else.

Well, these are early days, but I think he might have to change his philosophy. A somewhat gaudy article in Radio Times, more an apology for his apprehensions than a definition of an attitude, has him saying that the common factor between nearly all arts is that they are designed to entertain. They are not. Art primarily fulfils the artist; applause is secondary — there is the line between art and commercialism.

He is wrong, too, in quarrelling with the description "Arts programme", which, he is said to think, makes many people automatically reach for the off switch. They may do at first but, if the programme is good, word will get around and the switches will go on. Not, however, if the programme, which is edited by Christopher Martin, continues in last night's style and format. Frankie Howerd, for instance, is a very funny man, and it may titillate the box-office, with him playing Froch in *Die Fledermaus*, but it does not do a lot for anyone interested in opera to watch him do a bit of slapstick with Richard Baker and then a further stunt with Barry Norman himself.

La Ronde, we know, is going the rounds now that it is out of copyright. The Royal Exchange, Manchester, were first away, with the Royal Shakespeare tonight and Sheffield and BBC Television to come. *Omnibus* tried too much here: a genuflection towards Manchester, a historical survey with Hugh Frank, and a chat with John Barton who, I thought, might have been quite adequate on his own with maybe a clip from the Max Opulus film and a little of the RSC production.

Then there was Rick Wakeman swinging between those organs and seeming to



Norman: ill at ease

be telling us that the musical version of Orwell's 1984, which he is doing with Tim Rice, might have happy ending (start rotating George) though it was really in Tim's hands.

This was followed by Edward Heath, former Prime Minister, well-known sailor author, choir conductor and now revealed as an enthusiast for Japanese art, whipping round the Great Japan Exhibition trailed by Norman. I had a vague feeling that Heath, who is splendid in every way, was not just there because of his primacy in the field.

So not a good *Omnibus* then but, with 18 to go, good wishes. Attitude first, I would think, then content, then format and forget about what he does not know, then he should be a reporter.

King's Royal on BBC1, in ten parts, looks from the first like being a real dish of Sunday night cold porridge, one of these tedious rich family sagas. Tom Bell, who has my sympathies, appears as the Scots family's head, self-made, self-opinionated, with sentiments which, though the series is set around 1874, reminded me of Ian Paisley. Bell is Fergus King, a mean-minded grog-house tycoon in conflict with his son who, God help and save us, wants to marry a Catholic, and everybody else the kind of man who brings Christianity into disrepute. I cannot imagine how he will end up, but I will not be with him.

Yorkshire Television's Sunday Best aims to put a sparkle in 14 of our Sunday evenings with what appeared from this first programme to be jocular Christianity. It is presented by Frank Topping with Donald Swann and Marian Davies and may undergo change as it progresses, but I could not sing along with this one though, as may be apparent, I could have done with a sparkle.

Dennis Hackett

Cinema: Ivor Davis reports on the controversy over Hollywood's version of a BBC serial

Rebelling against American pigeon-holes

"Pennies from Heaven is a hopelessly esoteric big budgetter... a lugubrious, neo-Brechtian musical exercise of notable pretension and virtually no artistic payoff." — *Daily Variety*.

"Pennies from Heaven is so startlingly original that it leaves you open-mouthed and a little dazed... it's the movie of the year." — *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*.



Steve Martin, with Bernadette Peters, going against his image in "Pennies from Heaven"; and (below) the director Herbert Ross

Dennis Potter professes no surprise that the \$19m movie version of his nine-hour television serial *Pennies from Heaven*, screened by the BBC in 1978, is so violently dividing the American critics. *Time* magazine hated it, *Newsweek* raved and so did Pauline Kael in *The New Yorker*. The *New York Times* liked it — and the Hollywood trade papers worked themselves into a venomous frenzy about it.

The first public reaction to the film, which has just opened in the United States, appears cool. Both Potter and the director, Herbert Ross, whose films include *The Turning Point* and *Midnight*, agree that the picture will need careful nurturing if it is to be accepted by filmgoers in America.



Potter: no compromise

Potter has translated his British tale of Arthur Parker, the libidinous West Country song-sheet salesman, to depression-era Chicago. The story remains essentially the same — that of a man with an unsatisfying existence who lives in a fantasy world where life is like the words of the Tin Pan Alley songs he peddles, while his real existence descends lower and lower into the depths.

In the movie version Arthur dreams on a large Hollywood scale with Busby Berkeley chorus-lines and casts of thousands. It is a far cry from the simple, effective, small-screen British version. But, says Potter, deliberately so. "English fantasies", he says, "are dreamed on a more intimate scale. Such an approach would have ruined the film. You had to relate directly to the American way of thinking and dreaming, to Astaire and Rogers and the big movie musicals which would have been an American Arthur's frame of reference."

But if Americans, as Potter suggests, dream bigger dreams, they also tend not to like surprises. And this is the biggest source of the difficulties US audiences are likely to have with the film.

At a screening in Los Angeles I recently attended one woman was positively outraged. "It's disgusting," she said, apparently referring to the picture's mixture of blunt sexuality, which some Americans have perceived as aberrant, and the musical genre which sets them up to expect roses and rainbows. "There's not even a

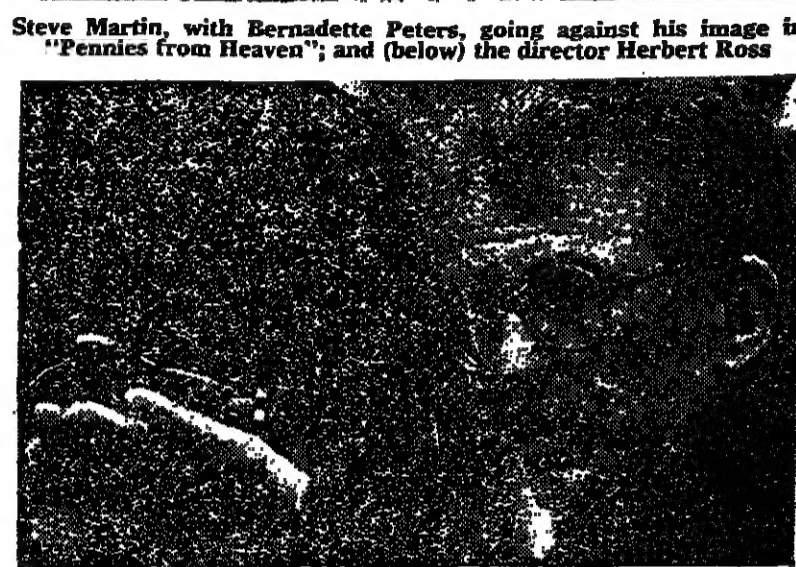
story," she continued. "And they spent all that money."

That reaction does not surprise Potter. "Anything that mixes categories, is not on the right shelf, doesn't have the right price or come with the right ribbon, will throw some people. Americans like things to be ruthlessly categorized. But unless there's a place for films to mix categories, cross lines, break new ground, then film as an art form becomes totally moribund."

Fully aware of the difficulties the film presents, MGM, the home of sugar-and-spice musicals from the era of Garland and Gene Kelly, are carefully trying to condition the public not to expect the film to be an updated version of the Bing Crosby-Thirties musical of the same name.

What may be confusing audiences still further is the fact that Arthur is played in the film by Steve Martin, whose reputation in America is that of a clean-cut and original comedian who appeals to a mainly under-25 audience. He could not be further from Bob Hoskins's Parker in the British version.

Potter finds Thirties Chicago an apt locale for the story and comments: "With the film version I started again with page one, scene one. I knew I had to cut away three-quarters of the original. I don't think people will say 'Look what Hollywood has wrought on Dennis Potter'. They won't regard it as spoiling or evasion or compromise. It's distilled but it's all there. It's not a Hollywood



botching of the original. I proudly stand by both pieces. The Hollywood nightmare didn't happen to me."

Ross, whose wife Nora Kaye found the project almost by accident when visiting England, says: "No one has ever attempted to treat musicals in this fashion. Even Dennis is unable to define the precise genre. It's a morality play, and deeply Christian — a very serious piece of work, the most ambitious and difficult film I've ever undertaken."

At first even Ross had trouble finding a studio willing to finance the picture. "Some admired the

quality of it but they felt it was dangerous material," he says. "It deals with painful personal issues, death, adultery, the murder of a young girl and suicide. It's very, very black."

Potter is convinced the film will find its audience in the long run. "How people divide on it is important to MGM," he says, "but not to me. Some films everybody bubbles about and forgets a week later. This one is not as sweet on the tip of the tongue immediately as most musicals. It's the difference between lemonade and Burgundy. I think it will stay in the minds longer than most films do."

Opera

Audience scorned

The Beggar's Opera

Drill Hall

There are, we know, problems in playing *Gay Street*. But I cannot accept for a moment that what is being presented by Opera Factory London constitutes any kind of attempt to realize what

The Beggar's Opera is and what it might mean. David Freeman's production is, rather, an exercise in self-indulgence which happens to take *The Beggar's Opera* as its motif.

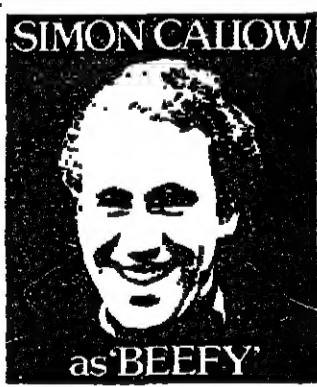
Under the excuse of pointing the satire, if the anonymous programme note is to be believed, the thing is heaved partly out of Georgian London into a vaguely contemporary no-man's-land. Most of the songs remain like fossils from the eighteenth century, prettily decked out for a baroque chamber group, but others have been converted into a fully modern and silly synthetic rock. Of course the idiocies of this production, intoxicated as it is with itself, do not end there. We have a water-pistol fight, we have mimed sexual practices intended, no doubt, to show us how marvellously cynical and uninhibited this production is, but emphasizing instead that all the gratification is for those on stage.

In the central role of Macheath — one of the lucky ones serviced by the whores, incidentally — Mr Freeman chooses to star himself. He does so with the carelessness of one who does not need to conserve his reputation as singer or actor. He does so, too, with an almost continual expression of distaste, which I interpret as directed not only at the work in which he is involved but also at his audience, for surely, whether as performer or as producer, he has no high opinion of our intelligence.

The rest of the cast are as abysmal as they have to be. The instrumentalists of the Endymion Ensemble, guided from the harpsichord by Paul Daniel, are pleasing when they are allowed to be. And really I cannot bring myself to think any more about this obnoxious piece of exhibitionism.

If London is to have an "opera factory", then I hope its future products have more in common with the overwhelming *Punch and Judy* which William Mann reviewed last week. David Freeman has said much about changing the face of opera with his ensemble, and one must wish him well. Opera has always stayed pretty much the same. But, for heaven's sake, its potentialities and its limitations need to be taken seriously.

Paul Griffiths



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Concerts

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Lindsay Quartet

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Peter Cropper, leader of the Lindsay Quartet, thanked us on Friday for turning out on an inclement evening, but it would be a dull heart that did not venture a little snow for the sake of Schubert's Trout Quintet, that monument to pure musical enjoyment (and a fish that slipped through Anthony Burgess's net the other day, when he was rewriting the history of music for us all).

The Lindsay, in this shared series of new year recitals, centred on string quartets, were also offering Beethoven's op 18 no 1 in F major, first of the glorious canon, still entertainment music, although I see what Burgess was suggesting. The slow movement is more intense than was usual in Viennese classical style of the Haydn age (but there are parallels in late Mozart and Haydn), and the Lindsay made a purely musical virtue of that intensity. They took quite a brusque view of the outer movements, as if exhilarated by a country walk on just such a wintry day, the finale defiant rather than delighted.

That was in the context of Mozart's *Dissonance* Quartet, K465 in C, which had come first and which, despite the slow introduction whose grinding discords, miraculously resolved, suggested the nickname, blissfully eschewed the pleasure principle.

It was given a reading of outstanding love and perception, exquisitely balanced and emotionally weighted — the slow movement perhaps an iota short on tuneful smoothness, the trio of the minuet slightly faster, unprofitably as it turned out (in tempo would have worked even better, if only they would believe in it). At this level of quartet-playing, one cannot censure, only disagree. So to the Trout Quintet, in which the Lindsay's second violin yielded place to Rodney Slatford as double-bass and Imogen Cooper as pianist. It was a joyous and lyrical, but also a discreetly adjusted, reading. Intimacy and easily bouncing rhythms were of its essence, gentle sociability rather than the lusty buzzhalls which are involved, but can easily be overstressed, to the detriment of the music's effortless effect.

Miss Cooper, in particular, recognized the need for discretion in a piano part largely written in octaves around the top of the treble clef; they easily glare on a modern concert grand. The cello solos, and the bass in the development of the first movement, indicated that they all subscribed to this approach, which for a while made us all imagine ourselves in a coffee-house or drawing room, not a big modern concert hall.

William Mann

Accordion overcomes prejudice

Park Lane Group

Purcell Room

Thursday's concert in the Park Lane series was patterned in a rigid yet original manner, each half consisting of two works for piano accordion — one by a Scandinavian and one by an English composer — followed by a string quartet of Slavonic origin. The accordion has considerable prejudices to overcome, but Ole Schmidt's *Toccata* no 1 ideally displayed its serious potentialities.

Thus in the opening section occurred rapid melodic progressions crossed with agitated chordal punctuations; later came a creditable imitation of an organ, with slow contrapuntal movement; finally there was a virtuoso outburst of changing textures and tone colours. Mario Conway's playing was indeed virtuosic, a point confirmed by Phyllis Tate's *Romance* and *Dance* Caprice, which had its first London bearing.

This went in the opposite direction from the Schmidt, insisting on the accordion's links with popular culture. The *Romance* offered a queasily off-centre version of music from a cheap Parisian dance hall or street cafe, or at least from the soundtrack of an early René Clair film. A once so proud, these were articulated with splendid clarity, not least by the pianist (the work's principal sufferer) in the finale.

Greater adventurousness, and violence, marked the remaining accordion pieces. *Dinosaurius*, which includes a part for pre-recorded tape, explores many of the techniques players like Mr Conway have pioneered, while Michael Finnissy's *Stomp*, a Park Lane Group Commission receiving its premiere, took a brisk look at jazz.

Max Harrison

That said, everyone at the penultimate concert of the Nash Ensemble's Russian series on Saturday night must have relished the chance of meeting the old orchestral wizard in such unfamiliar guise, the more since the performance did so much to conceal its repetitiveness. Tingling rhythm in the neoclassical opening *Allegro*, a strong sense of direction in the meandering *Andante* and a pinch of humour in the concluding *Rondo* all worked wonders. As for the fugatos of which the composer was

once so proud, these were articulated with splendid clarity, not least by the pianist (the work's principal sufferer) in the finale. The programme's two other Russian representatives were both Kimsky's pupils. There was no doubt as to why Arensky's D minor Piano Trio (1894) was once so popular on these shores: its teasing, elfin Scherzo (with an unashamed waltz as trio) and its elegiac *Adagio*, both artfully scored, were irresistible, even if the more ambitiously ardent outer

Park Lane Group

Purcell Room

The spotlight turned on the trombone and the human voice for the last recital of this year's PLG Young Artists and Twentieth-Century Music series. The idea was to explore the similarities between the two, a notion made explicit in the French text which surfaces from Vinko Globokar's *Discourse 2* for trombone and tape.

Although it has little more to say than the Berio *Sequenza* which inspired it, and says it no more interestingly, John Kenny gave a compellingly virtuosic performance, pitting his wits against the tape's synthesized babel, like one beast calling to another across a primeval subterranean jungle. His deft manipulation of a variety of mutes in the first performance of George Nicholson's *Slide Show* gave us something to focus on in an overlong, laboured object-lesson on how the instrument functions, one which any observant brass band devotee could learn rather more enjoyably.

As the tired analogy was pressed home, a growing longing to hear the human voice itself was rewarded in Catherine Wyn-Rogers's deeply affecting performance. A vastly resonant, securely produced and warmly expressive instrument, her contralto could kindle the torrid ecstasy of Bartok's *Five Songs*, Op 15, or darken into a dreamlike drifting in the atonal wanderings of Berg's *Four*, Op 2.

Her accompanist, Stephen Betteridge, provided bright, if occasionally blurred, colouring to her laconic exhalings of Poulenc's emblematic *Beshtaire*, while Michael Finnissy played his own piano part in *Green Bushes*, a variegated dappling of light against Miss Wyn-Rogers's often breathtakingly beautiful modulation of vowel sounds through the slow, modal unfolding of its folk tale.

Hilary Finch

Michael White
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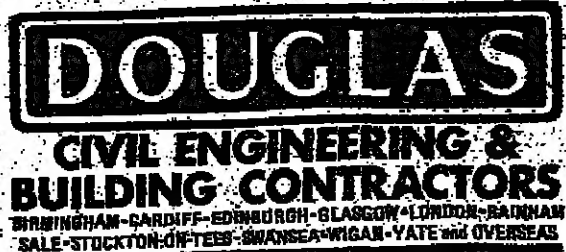
Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

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Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)



Stock	Price	Chgs	Int	Gross	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price	Chgs	Int	Gross	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price	Chgs	Int	Gross	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price	Chgs	Int	Gross	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price	Chgs	Int	Gross	Div	Yield
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Halliday Simpson hearing 'soon'

By Drew Johnston

The Stock Exchange disciplinary hearings against the partners of Halliday Simpson, the Manchester stockbrokers accused of unauthorised share dealings, will be heard at the end of next month or in the first two weeks in March, according to Mr Russell Torr, a former partner in the firm and one of the accused.

He and the others named in the investigation received a copy of the three-volume report shortly after it was considered by the Stock Exchange last Tuesday. In a covering letter the Exchange gave a provisional date at which the allegations would be considered. But it was unclear whether each case would be heard separately or whether all the accused would attend the same hearing.

Although the firm has been suspended at its own request since last summer, the individuals can still be fined by the Stock Exchange if the allegations are accepted by the disciplinary committee.

The Stock Exchange has also passed its findings to the Department of Public Prosecutions, which is to consider if there are cases to answer under criminal law.

Mr David Garner, Halliday Simpson's senior partner, declined to comment on the report. None of the accused have accepted the allegations.

Gill's house option to be challenged

By Philip Robinson

The Post Office pension fund is to claim that Mr Jack Gill's option to buy a company-owned house valued at £100,000 below its value never appeared in the last account of his former employers.

The fund is heading 10 leading institutions in legal action to stop a £750,000 golden handshake from Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation.

Section 54 of the Companies Act states that any material contract between a company and its directors must be shown in the accounts.

The Post Office goes into the High Court today seeking an injunction to stop ACC paying out any cash or selling any property to Mr Gill until its petition that his compensation payoff is too high has been heard in full in February. It is likely that as the Post Office evidence was given to ACC's legal advisers on Friday, the injunction hearing could be adjourned.

If the Post Office loses the full action, it could effectively have to pay for Mr Gill's handshake itself. As part of seeking an injunction, it must agree to pay any damages to ACC which could arise out of the delayed payment.

Mr Gill's solicitor is already considering suing ACC for damages because the deadline for paying Mr Gill £500,000 compensation for loss of office was £27,000 worth of pension rights and selling him the house in Kingswood.



Challengers: Michael Cassidy, pension fund solicitor and Ralph Quartano, Post Office pensions chief

Surrey, has passed. He is due to decide today whether to start proceedings.

Meanwhile, the Post Office will place an amended decision before the High Court this morning, the main grounds of which are that the compensation payment is too high, that no explanation has ever been given as to why Mr Gill suddenly departed after 25 years service, that the company is in breach of Section 54 of the Companies Act and that the circular asking shareholders approval for the Gill deal was misleading on nine points.

It is understood that the

Post Office, during the course of proceedings, intend to inquire into the benefits given to directors by ACC.

The affidavit of Mr Ralph Quartano, Post Office chief executive, whose petition now speaks for 13 per cent of the non-voting shares, is also being filed with the high court today. Attached to it will be details of the house option agreement, Mr Gill's service contract and his termination agreement with ACC.

The Gill payoff has split the ACC boardroom where directors control most of the voting shares.

Golden handshakes, page 12

Torness reactor 'not needed'

By Tony Hodges

There is no need for the £1,500m advanced gas-cooled nuclear power station already being built at Torness, East Lothian, according to Dr Norman Dombey, former adviser to the Commons Select Committee on Energy.

The 73 per cent capacity over maximum peak demand produced by the South of Scotland Electricity Board rendered Torness unnecessary, Dr Dombey said. Torness would force up electricity prices in Scotland, while producing still more power which was not needed.

Forecasts for future demands and costs by the board are to be scrutinized further when Parliament resumes this month, and British Aluminium's citing of high power charges from the Hunterston "B" power station as one of the factors for the closure of its Invergordon smelter means that the committee will be re-examining the case for Torness.

Figures submitted to the

committee by the board on Torness AGK suggested that £400m would be "saved" by its completion several years in advance of the need for its supply.

But the board acknowledged the figures were based on a hypothetical increase in oil and coal prices of 5 per cent a year above the rate of inflation in the years 2000 to 2012. Such a calculation was unrealistic, Dr Dombey said.

"In my view this shows the way authorities can bamboozle the public by just making crazy projections into the future in order to get their case across, even if it is an absolutely daft case," Dr Dombey, a physicist at the University of Sussex, said.

He suggested the board should make new calculations on the cost of Scottish electricity over the next 10 years, based firstly on Torness being completed as planned and then on the project being halted now and "mothballed" until required.

Mr Ted Leadbitter, MP for Hartlepool and a member of the committee, said he would be raising the question of Torness.

The committee would be considering new evidence presented by its advisers in response to a number of issues raised with the Government on the energy programme.

Mr Peter Rost, MP for South East Derbyshire, another committee member, said he had spoken strongly against the project and had given his support only because the amount of work done made it unreasonable to suggest cancellation.

His doubts were on economic grounds. The evidence had not convinced him that the electricity produced would be competitively priced and it could not be achieved, there was little point in the station.

The electricity board said the closure of the Invergordon smelter had been dis-

cussed and there was no question of Torness being stopped. It remained the Government's view it would be needed to meet future demand.

"Torness is necessary, sensible, worthwhile and in the simplest terms, one of the best ways we can see of holding stable future tariffs for all our 1.5 million consumers," the board said.

There was overcapacity at present, in common with all other power stations, but that was necessary to meet all reasonable demands.

It also meant supplies being taken from the most efficient, and therefore most economic, plants.

Torness being a long-term project had to be looked at in the long term. If Dr Dombey produced figures of his own, the board would examine them.

Although nuclear power stations were dearer to build than coal or oil stations, the electricity they produced was cheaper, he said.

Talks may cut trade imbalance

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Jan 10

Leaders of the leading western trading nations met in Key Biscayne, Florida, this week to try to settle some of the increasing trade differences which could unleash a new wave of protectionism, similar to the one which helped spark the Depression in the 1930s.

The Japanese have twice postponed the talks, fearing that the United States and Europe would join forces to oppose exports from Tokyo.

The meeting, which was originally billed as trilateral talks between ministers of the United States, the EEC and Japan, will also include members of the Canadian government, which asked to be represented.

Despite the high level nature of the talks, it is unlikely that they will produce any concrete results. A member of the American delegation said that if the talks result in tough and frank exchanges which convince participants the West's trade differences are now dangerous, they will have accomplished something.

Transatlantic steel trade, the West's mounting trade deficit with the Japanese, European agricultural policies, export subsidies, United States trade sanctions against the Soviet Union, and Canadian energy policies, designed to limit the role of American companies, are some of the problem areas.

The possibility of serious confrontations prompted the participants to set strict ground rules for the talks, which will not include discussions of any bilateral issues, such as steel or Canada's energy policies.

The Ministers will concentrate on broad questions such as Poland, possible control over the steel industry, and goods and ways to defuse growing political pressures for protectionist trade policies.

As unemployment mounts in the United States, car, steel and other industries, import grows for a wide range of protectionist proposals.



Pricing beer: higher charges on the way

Brewers to charge 2p more for canned beer

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Prices of canned beer sold through supermarkets are likely to rise, probably next month. There are strong indications in the trade that the rise, the first for a year on almost all lines, will be at least 2p on a large can.

The cheap offers on canned beer seen in the supermarkets before Christmas are also expected to dry up, at least for the time being. Some of these have been virtually wiping out the 4p increase on large cans which the brewers added in February last year.

Final decisions on the scale of rises do not yet appear to have been made by the brewers which face the problem of protecting profits despite the threat of further declines in beer sales.

The National Union of Licensed Victuallers is worried that some brewers might gear up rents of their tied pubs in order to improve returns.

A price increase on cans in line with last year's is being discounted because of the increased spare production capacity bedeviling the brewers. Sales into the supermarket and the free trade — largely clubs — at low prices have been seen as a way of mopping up some of the spare capacity.

But an increase in some free trade prices as well as on cans has been forecast by Mr Colin Mitchell, drinks analyst at Eddymaster & Moore, the London stock brokers. He forecasts a 5p rise on beer this year.

Boeing presents new 757

From Edward Townsend, Seattle, Jan 10

The Boeing 757 jet, the second of the American company's new fuel-efficient airliners of which 19 have been ordered by British Airways, is due to be rolled out of its assembly hanger here on Wednesday.

Sir John King, the chairman of British Airways, senior executives of Rolls-Royce which is to supply newly designed RB211 engines for the first batch of 757s, and leaders of other leading airlines and suppliers are to witness the ceremony. It is taking place just five months after the roll-out of the larger, 270-seater 767 for which 173 orders have been received.

Boeing, the world's largest jet builder, is investing more than \$2,500m (£1,315m) in the two aircraft and in developing an improved version of its top-selling 737-seater 737. Orders for the latter now stand at 990 of which 730 have been delivered.

The short to medium range 757, with between 180 and 220 seats, is directly in competition with the Airbus A-310 of Airbus Industrie, the European consortium in which British Aerospace holds a 20 per cent stake. Airlines have so far ordered 173 of the A-310s against a total of 136 for the 757.

British Airways, which has options to buy a further 18 of the new Boeing, and Eastern Air Lines of the United States which has 51 on order or at the option stage, are to take delivery of the first in January, next year.

The smallest customer so far for the new Boeing is Monarch, the United Kingdom charter airline and a sister company to the Cosmos holiday tour company, which has ordered three 757s with an option to buy at least one more.

Monarch is engaged in a \$130m (£68m) programme to replace its three Boeing 720Bs and the RAC 1-11s with 737 and 757 aircraft by 1984.

More than 3m jobless likely for two years

By Melvyn Westlake

Unemployment is likely to reach 3 million and remain well over that figure for the remainder of this Parliament, even if relatively rapid growth is engineered, according to James Capel, the City stockbroker, in their economic assessment, published today.

Despite the projected recovery in 1983-84, output will still be between 3 and 4 per cent below its 1979 level, by the end of 1983, and manufacturing output even after a strong per cent growth over the next two years, will still be between 10 and 11 per cent below its 1973 peak.

The Government will appear to have little to show for its policies unless the inflation rate can be squeezed down well into single figures. The brokers expect some improvement in the level of wage settlements in the summer. Nevertheless, it is expected that the rise in average earnings could be held to about 10 or 11 per cent, which together with productivity gains, makes single figure inflation a possibility in 1983.

The Government could improve on this past performance by raising excise duties in line with inflation, as is expected in the next Budget.

In that event, inflation might be brought down to 8

per cent by the fourth quarter of 1982. This would also provide a relative boost to real incomes compared with the Treasury forecast. Lower inflation might also encourage people to spend more of their savings than is expected.

Meanwhile Britain could be heading for a 16 per cent jobless level and the bottom of the EEC unemployment league table, the latest University of Cambridge economic policy review says.

The Community would have to create 9.5 million extra jobs to bring unemployment down to 5 per cent of its labour force by 1985.

This would require an average annual economic growth rate of about 5 per cent but would still leave unemployment at a high level compared with past standards.

If governments do nothing, however, and economic conditions in the next few years are the same as in 1981, the level of unemployment in the EEC could reach about 12 per cent of the workforce compared with about 8 per cent in 1981.

Such circumstances would hit Britain hardest, according to the Cambridge Department of Applied Economics analysis which looks at prospects and problems facing the EEC.

EEC steel price strategy 'at risk'

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Crucial discussions on the future of the European steel industry's recovery programme are to be held later this week at an informal meeting of Community industry ministers at Valenciennes, over the effectiveness of the Commission-inspired strategy continues.

British and West German Ministers are expected to express their concern that member governments must adhere to the strict timetable laid down last year for the progressive elimination of all state aid to their steel industries by the end of 1985.

They will argue that unless the terms of the agreement are observed and enforced by the Commission, the entire strategy could be undermined.

British and German government worries derive from subsidies from the French, Belgian and Italian governments towards the end of last year made without consulting the Commission.

At the end of last month, the Commission formally approved payment of state aid totalling £700m by the three governments, but laid down strict conditions, including plant closures in the case of the Belgian steel industry.

The Belgian government has agreed to the closure of two mills in Charleroi and

two blast furnaces in Liege, in return for an aid package costing £139m to the loss-making Cockerill-Sambre group.

In return for emergency aid totalling £60m to the Usinor and Sacilor companies, the French government has agreed to detailed discussions with the Commission before the end of March on a restructuring programme for the French industry. Similar tight conditions have been applied to further aid for Italy's Finisider company.

The tough approach adopted by the Commission may help to quieten some of the criticisms levelled by the British and German Governments.

This week's meeting will also provide Ministers with an opportunity to discuss the response of consumers to the first phase of a round of price increases, being coordinated by producers across the Community.

Although the Commission has managed to introduce a series of price and production controls to curb overcapacity on a range of steel products, it has so far failed to secure any voluntary agreement on controls over the wire rod with the integrated producers unable to agree with independent steel producers on a formula.

Both dealers and the public

Rolls sheds 480 jobs

About 480 jobs are to be lost at Rolls-Royce aero-engine plant at Hillingdon, near Glasgow.

The job loss is believed to result from Lockheed, the American aircraft company, ending production of the TriStar airliner which is powered by Rolls-Royce's RB-211 engines, many of them produced at the Hillingdon factory.

The company hopes that the 360 redundancies on the shop floor and 120 staff workers, can be met by voluntary redundancy.

But Tom Dougan, the regional organizer of the engineering union, said yesterday that there would be union backing if workers wanted to fight to save jobs.

Mr Malcolm McKay, secretary of Paisley district of the union, said shop stewards were meeting today to discuss the matter.

BL convoy stranded

Fifty British Leyland Landrains, due for delivery in Kaduna, Nigeria, are held up 300 miles from their destination through a shortage of drivers.

The vehicles, part of an order for 100 Landrains worth £3.5m, became stranded at Ibadan.

Mr Peter Watson, managing director of A. A. Chanchang, the largest transporters of fuel in Nigeria, ordered the fleet to cope with a shortage of refined fuel in the country.

Mr Christopher Braithwaite, BL's sales director for Africa, said the only problem was finding enough drivers to get the convoy through. He expected that to be overcome in time for the lorries to be delivered by the end of this week.

The deal, negotiated by Mr Watson through the Export Credits Guarantee Department, could lead to further orders worth up to £18m.

Talk direct, C & W ordered

The Government is refusing to act as an intermediary in discussions between Cable & Wireless, and British Telecom over the interconnection of international communication networks.

Cable & Wireless, which in partnership with BP and Barclays Merchant Bank proposes to operate a rival domestic telecommunications system called Mercury primarily for the business community, has been told to negotiate directly with British Telecom.

BUSINESS BRIEFING



Talbot sticks to Samba

Talbot is keeping the name Samba for its new small car being launched in Britain next month.

The three-door front-wheel drive hatchback is already selling well under the name Samba on the Continent.

The company has had misgivings about using the name in Britain, but has now decided the name will be a big selling advantage.

Both dealers and the public

helped the company to make the decision by taking part in surveys.

Samba will be among the country's most economical cars. Its 1124cc engine version can return 60 miles per gallon at a constant 56mph and 48.7mpg in urban driving.

Two other engines for the versatile and desperately needed small car addition to the Talbot fleet are available.

□ The Spanish Seat car company is having talks with the West German Volkswagen company with a view to signing a cooperation agreement before June.

□ Delegates representing car unions at Ford plants in the United States have agreed to start talks with the company on a new labour contract.

THIS WEEK

TODAY: Retail sales figures for November (final).

TOMORROW: Hire purchase and other instalment credit, wholesale price index numbers (December provisional), personal sector account and industrial and commercial companies appropriation account (third quarter).

WEDNESDAY: Building societies' monthly figures (December), Central Government transactions including borrowing requirement (December).

THURSDAY: Index of industrial production for Wales (third quarter).

FRIDAY: United Kingdom banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-December), London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-December), Useable steel production (December).

Threat to engineering

Chambers of Commerce in Birmingham and Coventry claim at least 49 small companies specializing component manufacture and light engineering have gone out of business in the Birmingham area in the last six months.

This, they say, reinforces growing fears of an erosion of the industrial structure of the West Midlands.

The death of the traditional small makers of components and support services for heavy industry will leave a gap when an upturn comes which will either leave the big companies short of vital components.

Chinese seek oil partners

Two Chinese officials are in Hongkong seeking foreign cooperation and investment in the new offshore oil exploration programme over the next few years.

Modern drilling and production platforms are needed and 10 existing offshore oil rigs must have their engines replaced.

SATURDAY: Retail prices index (December), tax and prices index (December).

Company results: Eilis and Everard, H. Samuel, Magnet and Southern (today), Hogg Robinson, Ratners, Sted and Simpson (tomorrow), Rascal, Allied Colloids, Cosalt (Wednesday), Dixons Photographic, Thorn EMI, Associated Newspapers, S & W Benson, Muirhead (Thursday), Raybeck (Friday).

Gibraltar economy 'threatened'

Rock residents fear reopening of frontier with Spain

From Alan McGregor in Gibraltar

Trepidation is evident in reaction here to the announcement that on April 20 Spain is reopening the land frontier which, after two years, has been progressively increasing restrictions, was closed by General Franco in June 1969. It will inevitably mean important readjustments in the "island economy" that, with £30m development aid from Britain, has been built up in the 13 years during which the people of the last remaining colony in Europe have been denied land access to Spain at La Linea frontier.

In that time, the public sector has grown to constitute two-thirds of the economy, compared with about half before 1967. One of its mainstays, the naval dockyard, is to shut down in two years because of the efforts of the Joe Bassano, leader of the Gibraltar Transport and General Workers' Union, are close to the level in the United Kingdom and inflation here is lower.

Unemployment at four per cent contrasts with about 25 per cent in the adjacent Campo area of Spain, which formerly provided Gibraltar's foreign workers, to be replaced by Moroccans after 1982.

Mr Bassano said: "If we were exposed to the influx of Spanish labour, there would be so many unemployed that the Government of Gibraltar

would go bust within 12 months in trying to maintain them." Both he and Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister, are confident, however, that this is unlikely, considering the strength of Gibraltar unions in the 11,500 workforce. But the picture could change again were Spain to be a full member of the European Economic Community.

In addition to trying to persuade the British Government to change its mind on the dockyard, which is considered unlikely, the possible commercialization of the dock for merchant shipping is envisaged, although competition from other Mediterranean yards with lower wages would be keen.

Tax advantages introduced in recent years have so far attracted a score or so of offshore banks and captive insurance companies, and company registrations have increased to 2,000.

"Just reopening the frontier will not solve our problem," Mr Samuel Attias, a leading businessman said. "We need the normal business done by all frontier firms, cross border trade with people on either side buying where they wish — the same as Ceuta (a Spanish enclave in Morocco) directly across the Strait, which is a free port." Gibraltarians have long been entrepreneurial traditions.

"I have absolute confidence if the frontier is

reopened normally," Mr Wilfred Garcia, president of the Chamber of Commerce, said. "We can make Gibraltar what it was before, a resilient, successful shopping centre with a great deal of tourism and, now, rather more than that. We need to build the necessary infrastructure for outside investment."

If when the frontier is reopened, the influx of curious and bargain hunting Spaniards is likely to be phenomenal. During Franco's regime relatively few Spaniards, apart from the commuting workers, had passports enabling them to visit Gibraltar freely.

Likewise, tourism will receive an enormous boost. Sir Joshua said, "There have been so many restrictions and so much said about Gibraltar over the years that in the eyes of many tourists we must be almost a unique museum piece."

After 1967, not even foreign tourists from Spain's nearby Costa del Sol were allowed to use La Linea.

Since then regular access by air has been confined to flights from the United Kingdom and Tangiers, making a trip here time consuming and costly for tourists from the Continent, obliged to stop overnight in London.

For the same reason, about three quarters of visitors from the United Kingdom have come from the London area, the south-west and the Midlands.

Football

The wintry waste of England's ambitions

By Simon Jones

Football Correspondent

England are now in danger of being left out of the World Cup cold. With every dawn-like that, with every degree that drops below freezing point, another day will be added to the list of days when the FA Cup Final will be postponed.

After a meeting between the Football Association and the FA Cup Final in London yesterday, Graham Taylor, the League secretary, said that it was inevitable that the season will be extended beyond the FA Cup Final on May 22 and that, if another Saturday is lost to bad weather, the situation will become critical. The panel were called in for the fifth successive Saturday when only eight league games survived and a total of 133 have been called off.

There have been empty winters. The worst was in 1963 when, on January 5, only three of the 41 scheduled games took place. But this season is the hardest hit of all those in the World Cup year. As Mr Kelly pointed out, England's representatives are more than likely to be involved in cup competitions, both domestic and European, as well as the home internationals.

The most poignant comment on England's problems is illustrated by the position at Tottenham Hotspur. Aridities and possibly Villa will be summoned by Cesar Menotti, the Argentine manager, on April 1, ten weeks be-

fore the start of the World Cup competition. That is how long he feels he needs to prepare the holders to defend the trophy.

Spurs, though, are still in the cups as well as among the top seven in the first division. Hoddle, included in England's last squad against Hungary, may not finish his domestic duties until the end of May if Tottenham continue their run of success and reach either the final of the FA Cup, for which they are holders, or the European Cup Winners' Cup or the heights in the championship.

All of today's games have already been postponed and the weather forecasters expect the freeze to continue at least until the end of the week. If so, clubs could soon be forced to play three or even four matches a week in order to complete their programme. As so often in the past, it is stamina and fitness rather than ability which will be rewarded.

When Mr Greenwood is finally able to collect his pool of players, most will be weary after a series of important cup matches. Jack Stein and Billy Bingham, too, will have little time in which to lift their troops, sentenced as they are to several months of concentrated hard labour.

The night of November 18 may have brought some much needed warmth to the British horizon but it is needed even more so now. Yet when the thaw arrives, so will the water, the mud and further postponements. Whatever happens in the uncertainty of the coming weeks, it is already safe to say that the World Cup preparations within these snowbound islands will be far from ideal.

Forest win fails to hide the cracks

By Gerald Richmond

Nottingham F.C. Birmingham C.I.

Nottingham Forest's first

league victory at the City Ground

since October was born out of

two friendly matches played

earlier in the week and their FA

Cup defeat by Wrexham. Lobot

Town and Leicester City obliged

Peter Taylor, who is looking after

affairs while Brian Clough, who

has been under doctors' orders, by

providing friendly opposition and

a consequently sharper Forest

moved back to the fringe of the

championship battle.

Birmingham City, for their

part, are dangerously close to the

bottom of the table and they

could easily have taken at least

a point in a late revival which

followed a goal devastatingly

volleyed in by Worthington.

That last phase worried Mr

Taylor. We had dominated the

game with some quality foot-

ball, he said, "but went to

places as soon as Birmingham

scored. I did not see them go

up gear. We were not really

in control. I cannot see why. Having

established a good position, we

did not go in for the kill.

It is another way of saying that

the present Forest team lacks the

certainty of touch and the

rhythm of the side which won

the championship, the League Cup

twice, and the European Cup

twice.

Saturday's game was generally

considered to be reasonable en-

tertainment despite the condi-

tions. The pitch was hard and

in places, slippery, and neither

Mr Taylor, an advocate of

winter football, nor Birmingham

manager Jim Smith believed that

it was fit for a first division

match.

Nottingham Forest were

consistently on top in the first half,

during which Wallace hit the

foot of a post, the clearest

sign of a goal. Birmingham im-

mediately before half time. Dillon

was played in by Worthington

but found, and many have before

him, that the shilton presented a

formidable barrier in such situations.

It was difficult to see Forest's

lightweight attack, through until

it did so twice in eight minutes.

First Ward collected a pass

from McDowell and with

Gomelli, who did well in his

emergency role at left

back, caught out Birmingham

scored off a post after 61 minutes.

Then, after a neat exchange

of passes with Anderson, Proctor

delivered a good, low cross

which was headed in by Wallace.

Wallace played in to stab the

ball past Connor. That should

have been the end but as exciting

as the goal was, it was not the

quartets of the length of the

pitch, caused confusion in the

Forest defence.

Worthington's accurately

scored volley made the most of the

centre, ultimately helped on by

the fact that Birmingham's

defence had little to appease their

critical followers.

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pitch, caused confusion in the

Forest defence.

Worthington's accurately

scored volley made the most of the

centre, ultimately helped on by

the fact that Birmingham's

defence had little to appease their

critical followers.

Saturday's game was generally

considered to be reasonable en-

tertainment despite the condi-

tions. The pitch was hard and

in places, slippery, and neither

Mr Taylor, an advocate of

winter football, nor Birmingham

manager Jim Smith believed that

it was fit for a first division

match.

Nottingham Forest were

consistently on top in the first half,

during which Wallace hit the

foot of a post, the clearest

sign of a goal. Birmingham im-

mediately before half time. Dillon

was played in by Worthington

N Zealand earn the final place

Singapore, Jan 10.—New Zealand

today claimed the last place

in the 1982 World Cup Finals in

Singapore when they beat China

1-0 in the Asia-Oceania play-off. New

Zealand will compete in the finals

for the first time after staging a

remarkable recovery to take part

in today's match. They needed to

beat Saudi Arabia by five goals

to qualify for the play-off. New

Zealand achieved the unlikely result

with five first-half goals.

With so much at stake, the tie

was a scrappy affair. Woodin

gave New Zealand the lead after

44 minutes and Kuter, a message

striker on loan from the English

club Norwich City, made it 2-0

two minutes into the second half.

Kuter's second goal, however, was

disputed. The referee ruled that

Kuter had fouled himself before

scoring. The referee's decision

was appealed but the referee

ruled against Kuter. The referee

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Fox, Evans and Doyle of Stoke are beaten by a cross.

City get no reward for playing

By Nicholas Harting

Manchester City 2 Stoke City 1

There must be times when

Manchester City feel like top-

ping out their £40,000 under-18

system. Being the only club

in the country not to have lost

a game, the weather (not even

away from home, their two visits

since the freeze began, being to

Coventry and Liverpool) have

installations of their own) does

not necessarily mean it is all

advantageous.

Having played more games than

any other club in the first divi-

sion, City might now have reason-

ably expected to be out-

standing their ground. But they

have won only one of their three

league games in that

period.

On the evidence of Ipswich's

game against Birmingham last

Tuesday and Saturday's match at

Maine Road, City have no more

right to be on top than England

have in the World Cup. Ipswich, who

now played four games less, are

certainly there on merit. City are

overstuffed by accident though

they deserve credit for staying

games when others cannot.

If Ipswich are very much the

best in the city by an appreciable

margin, City have no more right

to be on top than England have

in the World Cup. Ipswich, who

now played four games less, are

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

9.08 For Schools, Colleges: Going to Work. An illustrative drama; 9.33 A Good Job with Prospects 10.00 You and Me (not Schools) 10.15 Music Time 10.39 The Voice of the People: 11.00 Travellers; 11.23 Talkabout 11.42 Working in Industry; 12.07 Countdown; 12.30 News After Noon; with Jeremy Thompson and Moira Stuart; 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only). Financial Report and News headlines; 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Among the items is a holiday advice spot hosted by Ian Lyon; 1.45 Camberwick Green (r) 2.01 For Schools, Colleges: Words and Pictures; 2.10 An Education; 2.40 Out of the Past; 3.00 Sec Heat: A magazine programme for the hearing impaired introduced by Maggie Woolley and Martin Colville (r); 3.25 Delta Smith's Cookery Course: Biscuits, Scones and Crumpets; 3.53 Regional News (not London).

3.55 Play School: For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC 2).
4.20 Cartoon: Laurel and Hardy characters in Fancy France (r).
4.25 Jackanory: Rodney Bewes reads the first part of Jilly, the Gargler's Cat.
4.35 Playhouse: The Gardens of the Caliph by Kay McNamara based on an Arabian Nights story.
5.05 Newsround: with Paul McDowell.
5.10 Blue Peter: Simon meets Steve Birkhill who lives in the shadow of a giant satellite aerial.
5.40 News: with Richard Baker. 6.00 Regional News magazines. 6.25 Newsday.
6.55 Dr Who: Part Three of Castrovalva, starring Peter Davison.
7.20 So You Think You Know What's Good for You? A quiz on health between three celebrity couples. Presented by Cliff Michelson and Doctor Miriam Stoppard.
8.10 Panorama: presented by Robert Kee. A report on the civil war in Chad and an interview with Lord Carrington.

BBC 2

10.10 Managing the Micro: 10.35 Speak for Yourself. Asking the doctor to visit you at home (r). 11.00 Play School. For the under fives presented by Chloe Ashcroft and Fred Harris. 11.25 Play It Safe. Jimmy Savile with some tips for young people in avoiding accidents (r). 11.35 Write Away. A guide to everyday writing presented by Barry Took (r). 11.50 Countdown. 2.00 A Child's Place. Children's rights (r). 2.25 Maths Help to O level standard. 2.40 Other People's Lives. 3.05 The Kayoos Indians of Brazil. 3.30 The Computer Programme. The first in a series of 10 programmes. 3.30 Up the Organisation. How to run a big concern (r).

3.55 Film: Passage to Marcellus* (1944) starring Humphrey Bogart. Escaped prisoners from the Devil's Island plan to join the Free French Army.
5.40 Undersea Kingdom* Part four: Revenge of the Volcanoes. A serial about a teenage Glaswegian girl (r).
6.25 Mr Smith's Favourite Garden. The Choice Border.
6.50 News with subtitles.
6.55 Riverside. The second of a new series that looks forward to the styles of 1982.
7.30 The Genuine Article. How to recognize a fake.
7.55 Porridge. Starring Ronnie Barker in Sat Desserts (r).
8.25 Grace Kennedy with fellow singing guests Peter Skellern and Dolan.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 For Schools: Boyesaux Tapestry; 9.47 Producing print: 10.04 The work of the milliner; 10.21 Macbeth — part one; 10.48 Zoo animals; 11.05 Safety; 11.22 The Thames from the docks to Carvery Island; 11.39 Rising prices; 12.00 Cockleshell Bay. Adventures of the Cockle twins for the very young (r); 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets; 12.30 Do It Yourself. Do-it-yourself advice for ladies; 1.00 News; 1.20 Thames news; 1.30 Farmhouse Kitchen. Baking cakes and biscuits with Dorothy Sloughhouse and Grace Mulligan; 2.00 Money Round. National Health dentures are among the items this week; 2.30 Film Big Bob Johnson and his Fantastic Speed (1978) starring Charles Laughton and Maud Adams. A comedy about a motor racing car whose work takes an odd turn when an eccentric millionaire's wife stipulates that two white Rolls-Royces have to join the fray.

4.15 Cartoon: Dargumouse in Close Encounters of the Absurd Kind.
4.20 Graham's Ark. Graham Thomson with advice on looking after large dogs.
4.45 The Book Tower introduced by Stephen Moore.
5.15 Mr and Mrs. Three married couples reveal how little they know of their respective spouses.
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news with Andrew Gardner and Rita Carter.
6.25 Help! presented by Viv Taylor Gee.
6.35 Crossroads. Adam Chance receives some advice from Jennifer Lamont.
7.00 Wish You Were Here... from the International Boat Show. In addition, Chris Kelly goes to Longport and Bath and Judith Chalmers to the Belgian resort of Blankenberge.
7.30 Coronation Street. Bert Tinsley gets a job.
8.00 Let There Be Love. Comedy series about a confirmed bachelor who falls in love.
8.30 World in Action: The Price of Britain's Bomb.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Week.
6.30 Today.
6.35 The Week on 4.
6.45 The Widower by Georges Simenon.
8.00 News.
8.05 Start the Week with Richard Baker.
8.08 News.
8.10 Money Box.
8.10 Daily Service.
8.45 Morning Story: "Man Trapped" by John Hamilton.
11.00 News.
11.05 Down Your Way visits Stretton, Hertfordshire.
11.30 Poetry Please!
12.00 News.
12.05 Toad of Toad Hall.
12.27 Nashville. The second of two programmes blending verse by Ogden Nash with music by Kurt Weill and Vernon Duke.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Afternoon Theatre. "The Case of the Late Pig" by Margery Allingham.
4.35 Back in Ten Minutes. Richard Maberly takes a walk in the garden.
4.45 Story Time: "The Rover" by John Coward.
5.00 Play Magazine.
6.00 News.
6.05 News Quiz.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Start the Week with Richard Baker.
8.00 Play: "Jennie Veldman and his Struggle Against the Boer" by Michael Picard.
8.15 The World Tonight.
8.30 Science Now.
11.00 Book at Bedtime: "Rogus Mabe" by Geoffrey Household.
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Music at Night. Chopin.
12.00 News, weather.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: Berwald, Mozart, Puccini, Respighi.
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert (cont): Tchaikovsky, Quilter, Sarasate, Grieg.
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Scriabin.
10.00 Leonard Ross (organ): Martin, Montsalvage, Lisc.
10.50 BBC Northern Singers: Fintz, Rawsthorne, Gardner.
11.30 Northern Sinfonia Orchestra: Janáček, Mozart, Haydn.
1.00 News.
1.05 Piano recital from St John's, North Square, Debussy, Schubert.
2.05 Muzine Musicale: Rimsky-Korsakov, Bach, Aron, Walton, Ravel, Prokofiev, Liszt, Debussy, David Morgan.

Radio 2

5.00am Steve Jones; 7.30 Terry Wogan; 10.00 Jimmy Young; 12.00 John Dunn; 2.00 Ed Stewart with Forces' Favorites; 4.00 David Hamilton; 5.45 News, Sport; 6.00

Radio 1

5.00am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis. 2.00 Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve Wright. 5.00 Peter Dinklage. 7.00 John Peel. 8.00 David Jensen. 10.00-12.00 John Peel.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 1500 kHz (150m) at the following times: GMT 6.00 Newsday, 7.00 World News, 7.30 Country Style, 7.45 Short Story, 8.00 World News, 8.30 Reflections, 8.45 Sport, 9.00 World News, 9.30 Newsday, 10.00 World News, 10.30 Newsday, 11.00 World News, 11.30 Newsday, 12.00 Newsday, 12.30 Newsday, 1.00 Newsday, 1.30 Newsday, 1.45 Newsday, 2.00 Newsday, 2.15 Newsday, 2.30 Newsday, 2.45 Newsday, 3.00 Newsday, 3.15 Newsday, 3.30 Newsday, 3.45 Newsday, 4.00 Newsday, 4.15 Newsday, 4.30 Newsday, 4.45 Newsday, 5.00 Newsday, 5.15 Newsday, 5.30 Newsday, 5.45 Newsday, 6.00 Newsday, 6.15 Newsday, 6.30 Newsday, 6.45 Newsday, 7.00 Newsday, 7.15 Newsday, 7.30 Newsday, 7.45 Newsday, 8.00 Newsday, 8.15 Newsday, 8.30 Newsday, 8.45 Newsday, 9.00 Newsday, 9.15 Newsday, 9.30 Newsday, 9.45 Newsday, 10.00 Newsday, 10.15 Newsday, 10.30 Newsday, 10.45 Newsday, 11.00 Newsday, 11.15 Newsday, 11.30 Newsday, 11.45 Newsday, 12.00 Newsday, 12.15 Newsday, 12.30 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Both sides dig in as two-day rail strike looms

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

British Rail will not know until this afternoon whether it has been successful in persuading train drivers' leaders to attend a later meeting aimed at heading off the two-day shutdown of the rail network threatened from midnight tomorrow. It would be the first national rail stoppage since 1955.

The national executive of the drivers' union, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef), meets again today to decide whether to allow its senior officials to attend the meeting at 10.30 am. Aslef's members are the largest rail union, the National Union of Railwaymen. Members of Aslef executive have been in the regions for more than a week, making preparations and are likely to be in a militant mood. However, it is thought that Mr Ray Buckton, union general secretary, will attend, if only to tell the strikers that the strike is on unless a 3 per cent increase is paid. BR has refused to pay the second stage of an 11 per cent deal agreed last August, until Aslef accepts flexible rostering which replaces the standard eight-hour working day with seven- to nine-hour shifts.

The NUR called the meeting because 500 of its members who are drivers are also being denied the 3 per cent because they are party to the same footplate agreement as Aslef. In spite of having already agreed to flexible rostering for most of its members, the NUR is lining up with Aslef on the drivers' case, and will argue that the 3 per cent should be kept "separate and distinct" from the productivity issue. Mr Buckton re-

affirmed last night that the strike would go ahead if the 3 per cent was not paid. Both sides appear to be in intractable positions but the meeting goes ahead. It is thought that the NUR might suggest areas of compromise, including introducing flexible rostering for a three-month trial period, or changing the duration of shifts to 7½ to 8½ hours.

Mr Clifford Rose, BR board member for industrial relations, said last night he was "not wildly optimistic about the meeting. Our position is unchanged. We will not pay any money unless Aslef agrees to the productivity deal. There is no way we are moving on this."

This view was reinforced over the weekend by Sir Peter Parker, BR chairman, who in a letter to the 50 biggest freight customers asking them to stay loyal to the railways if the strike goes ahead, said it was "important that we stand firm until we achieve the productivity improvements at issue. We cannot shrink the responsibility."

In *The Times* today Mr Buckton writes an open letter to rail travellers explaining the union's position. "The action of the board was to say the least, disreputable and brings into question the validity of the industry's negotiating procedures", he says.

If Aslef boycotts the talks, BR will still meet the NUR and leaders of the white-collar Transport Select Committee Association. Should BR refuse to pay the 3 per cent to the NUR drivers, their union may join the strike.

Buckton letter, page 6

Thatcher fears rebellion

Continued from page 1
judges its record in relation to the facts of life. "For a long time, this country has tried to avoid realistic questions and to avoid commonsense, sound solutions," said Mrs Thatcher. "I have been trying to face them because that is the way to get Britain back to long-term prosperity. My passion is my country. My wish is that she could have more influence in the world. She will only rise to that supreme influence when she can show that in peace time we are as good as the Germans and some of the other industrialised countries." The Prime Minister denounced the Social Democratic Party, saying no one knew

what they stood for. If they stood for the same things as the Liberals, they could have joined that party. Most of them came from the old Labour Party which gave into the unions, nationalised and monopolised, killed the grammar schools, and stood on the Grunwick picket lines.

If Labour had won the last election some SDP MPs would still be standing alongside Mr Wedgwood Benn. She repeated her concern about the level of unemployment but said: "There is only one way to cut down unemployment and that is genuinely to produce goods which other people will buy at a price they are prepared to pay," she said.



Bad weather news elsewhere, but children of all ages enjoyed the Christmas card setting on Primrose Hill, north London.

Blood shortage halts operations

By Frances Gibb

Hospitals in Wales were advised yesterday to cancel all routine surgical operations and consider emergency ones on their merits because of acute shortages of blood supplies.

Snow is preventing donors and collecting teams from travelling and several blood transfusion centres have launched emergency appeals for donors as blood supplies dropped closer to critical levels.

In Wales, the Rhydylaf centres near Cardiff was struggling to put together one mobile collection team. There are normally four, collecting 400 pints a day.

Dr Anthony Napier, director of the Welsh regional blood transfusion centre, said: "We have launched an appeal for donors on local radio and hope to be able to muster one of our teams for an emergency collecting session at the Royal Infirmary in Cardiff tomorrow."

Harsh weather was also preventing mobile teams getting to the 18 hospitals the centre

supplied, he said. It was impossible to reach areas such as Aberystwyth, Carmarthen, and Haverfordwest. Hospitals had been told to cut down drastically. Blood stocks were estimated to be down by about 20 per cent in both the North East Thames region, which supplies more than 100 hospitals and in the South Devon region, which supplies Devon, Cornwall and parts of Gloucestershire.

In areas of Britain less badly affected by the weather, centres were also running short. Hospitals in Derbyshire launched an urgent appeal and two mobile teams were sent out. A spokesman said they hoped volunteers would come forward to help with the shortage because critical.

Mr John Leak, of the South West Thames region's blood transfusion centre at Tooting, said supplies, particularly of the negative blood groups, were low. Normally the centre hoped to collect between 800 and

1,000 pints a day, but teams had twice failed to get out and the blood loss was a couple of hundred pints. Hospitals had been told to cut down drastically.

Blood stocks were estimated to be down by about 20 per cent in both the North East Thames region, which supplies more than 100 hospitals and in the South Devon region, which supplies Devon, Cornwall and parts of Gloucestershire.

At Bristol, where the South Western region's blood transfusion centre is based, Mr Peter Brogan said his nine teams were coping reasonably well.

The Kidney National Transplant Centre in Bristol has been using helicopters to move organs to hospitals, and has carried vital drugs for kidney patients from Essex to Exeter where a renal unit had exhausted its supplies.

For list of transfusion centres where blood can be given, see Information Service below.

Europe and US in grip of snow and ice

Continued from page 1

Britain was colder yesterday than the South Pole, where a temperature of -21°C was recorded at 12.00 hrs GMT. But this country was not alone in its suffering.

In the Irish Republic, the defence forces were placed on standby and all schools closed by government order until Wednesday, because of the worst blizzards for nearly 20 years.

A national emergency committee was set up to combat the severe conditions, in which nine people are believed to have died, and the Irish Army is dropping essential supplies from helicopters to cut-off villages and hamlets.

Dr Garrett FitzGerald, the Prime Minister, cut short his holiday in the Canary Islands to take charge of the emergency operation.

In France, heavy snow fell on Paris and the east (Reuters reports). Many secondary roads

were blocked and floods were expected in Brittany as the snow began to melt.

Moscow temperatures sank to -25°C, though warmer weather was expected. Russians were regaled on television with reports of snow-bound Britain.

In Poland, floods added to the country's difficulties as the River Vistula overflowed, forcing thousands to evacuate their homes. Warsaw radio said:

Across the Atlantic the central and eastern United States shivered in record low temperatures. It fell to -18°C in the upper half of the Mississippi valley, about halfway between New York and the lower Ohio valley. Strong winds made the effective temperature even lower.

In Chicago temperatures dropped to -32°C, breaking a 1972 record by 12 degrees. Power lines snapped, cutting off electricity supplies and heating in some districts.

Photograph and reports, page 2

Case of the aristocrat and the little black bag

From Our Correspondent New York, Jan 10

The trial of Claus von Bulow, a Danish aristocrat and former London banker, who is accused of attempting to murder his millionaire wife, promises to be one of the most intriguing cases in recent American legal history.

Starting tomorrow with jury selection, the case promises elements of an Agatha Christie thriller mixed with aspects of a Harold Robbins novel, with just a touch of the macabre of Barbara Cartland thrown in.

The charge against Mr von Bulow is that on two occasions, in December 1979 and in November 1980 he tried to murder his wife, Maria, "Gummy" von Bulow, by injecting her with insulin, a drug which is deadly to someone suffering from hypoglycaemia, as she does.

Mrs von Bulow, who is 50, has been in a coma in a Manhattan hospital since December 1980, a condition described by doctors as "a sustained and probably permanent vegetative state". The American press describes it as "a living death".

It was Mrs von Bulow's faithful maid, Marie Schraffhammer, who had saved her through two marriages and the births of her three children, who first voiced suspicions over the cause of her mistress's illness.

Soon after Mrs von Bulow passed into the coma, Marie told the two children of the first marriage that she thought their stepfather had tried to murder their mother.

Princess Ann-Louise von Auersperg-Kneissel, aged 23, and Prince Alexander von Auersperg-Kneissel, aged 22, took the maid's story to the family lawyer.

Miss Schraffhammer also told the police that Mrs von Bulow had told her in June, 1979, that she intended to divorce her husband, and she also told them about Alexander's father, a beautiful New York socialite who she alleged, was Mr von Bulow's mistress.

It was also the maid who first heard of the little black bag which has become a focal point of the prosecution case. It is alleged that the bag, containing insulin, valium and hypodermic needles, was found in a locked cupboard in Mr von Bulow's bedroom.

Mrs von Bulow, who is free on bail, claims that his wife caused the condition herself by indulging in an excess of alcohol and eating too many sweets, both of which, it is contended, could aggravate her condition to the point of a coma.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Exhibitions
Illustrations by Richard Kennedy, Commonwealth Institute, 10 to 5.30.
English eighteenth and nineteenth century watercolours and drawings exhibited by Michael Spratt, Dallas Gallery, 9 Old Bond Street, W1, 10 to 6.
"Turner and the sea", Tate Gallery, 10 to 6.
"Dimensional Textiles", an

exhibition of handmade rugs, carpets and wall-hangings, Denis Compton Room of Westminster Hotel, Lodge Road, W8, 10 to 8.
Oils, watercolours, stone carvings and photographs by Dr Richardson, Caroline Bloch and Mark Bader, Islington Central Library Gallery, 2 Fieldway Crescent, N15, 9 to 5.
Paintings and installation by three Polish artists at Art Gallery, 5-3 Rosebery Avenue, EC1, 11 to 6.
"The Spirit of Japan", photographs by Harold Rose, Photo-

graphic Information Centre, 84 Newman Street, W1, 9 to 5.
"Cecil Beaton: War photographs 1939-45", Imperial War Museum, 10 to 5.30.
Talks, lectures and literature: an evening with Monsieur Teste by Paul Valéry, a reading by Richard Humphreys, 1, Tate Gallery, 9 to 5.
"Late Anglo-Saxon Jewellery", by Anne Pearson, 11.30, British Museum.
"Arts and Gales lecture", by W. E. C. Thomas on "Functional and morphological effects of diagenetic and tectonic processes in relation to peat allocation", Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, 5.
Music
Piano recital by Paul Berkowitz, St Lawrence Jewry, 1.
Organ recital, by Jonathan Renner, St Michael's Cornhill.
Recital by Kirilko Nagata (violin) and John Blazely (piano), St Anne and St Agnes, Grosvenor Street, 10.
Recital with Marlene Tirimo (piano), St John Smith Square, 1.
Landscapes by Children's House Choir, Lansdowne House, Waterloow Park, Blagdon Hill, NE, 6.15 to 7.15.
Walks
London's Ghosts, Allevs and Undergound, 7.30.

Nature notes

In the snow, the tracks of animals and birds leave a record not to be seen at any other time. Rabbits leave the most distinctive marks: a V-shape, consisting of a pair of round prints side by side, followed by two other prints one behind the other. The rear that are side by side are the front tracks, but they are made by the hind legs, since the rabbit when running swings its hind legs in front of its forepaws. A fox trots along more heavily, leaving a straight line of prints. Squirrels leave bear tracks with five long claw marks: they too put their hind feet exactly where their front feet have landed.

Birds tracks show more clearly in shallow snow, a mosaic of prints quickly narrows to a double step where food has been thrown down. But if a crow has come down it is easy to pick out its tracks, since it has a long scratch between the prints where it dragged its feet.

BJM

The papers

The Daily Mirror comments that Britain has never taken the precautions against severe weather which colder countries must do. That means that when it does hit us the Government has to be steady and generous with assistance.

Mr Denis Howell, Labour's weather minister, wants Mrs Thatcher to make a similar appointment. Mr Michael Heseltine, the Environment Minister, says that would be a gimmick. He says it does his to the Government has to be steady and generous with assistance.

The Daily Express says that the fierce weather has all manner of people complaining about how inefficiently we cope with it. "For a change, let us think about all the people who work in the worst conditions, when most of us are still asleep." This is less milkmen, paper boys and milk, postmen, refuse-men, and in the countryside countrymen and shepherds.

Everybody who gets up at an ordinary time in the morning should pause and thank all those who get up hours earlier.

The Pound

	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	1.78	1.70
Canada \$	1.78	1.70
Denmark Kr	14.70	14.70
France Fr	11.46	11.46
Germany DM	4.53	4.53
Italy Lira	137.00	137.00
Hong Kong \$	11.35	11.35
Japan Yen	242.00	242.00
Netherlands Gld	451.00	451.00
Spain Ptas	165.00	165.00
Sweden Kr	11.74	11.74
Switzerland Fr	2.45	2.45
USA \$	1.57	1.50

Bank for small denomination bank notes only, as quoted on Friday in London. The £100 rose 1.5 to 391.4 on Friday evening. New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 4.75 at 855.53.

Blood centres

Since blood supplies are running short in the bad weather, here are addresses of regional transfusion centres (phone numbers in brackets):

North: Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6QB (Newcastle 737800). Yorkshire: Bridge Road, Leeds LS2 7TW (Leeds 655951). Trent: Longley Lane, Sheffield S2 7JN (0742 387701). E Anglia: Long Road, Cambridge CB2 2TW (0223 45211). North-west: Thames: Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex (01-952 5311). North-east: 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 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